

# Photosynthesis

# Summary Reaction



Water



Carbon dioxide

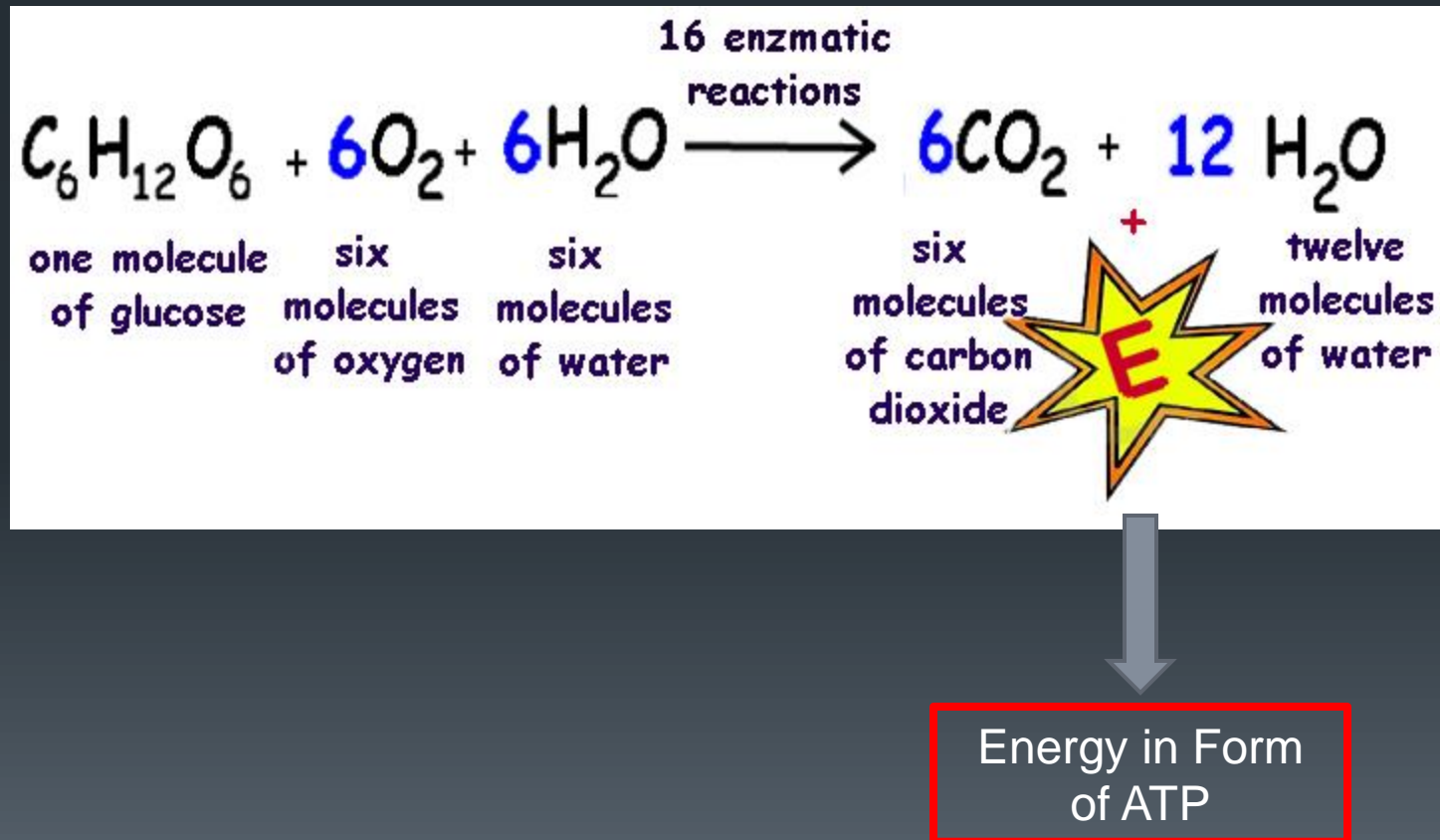


Glucose

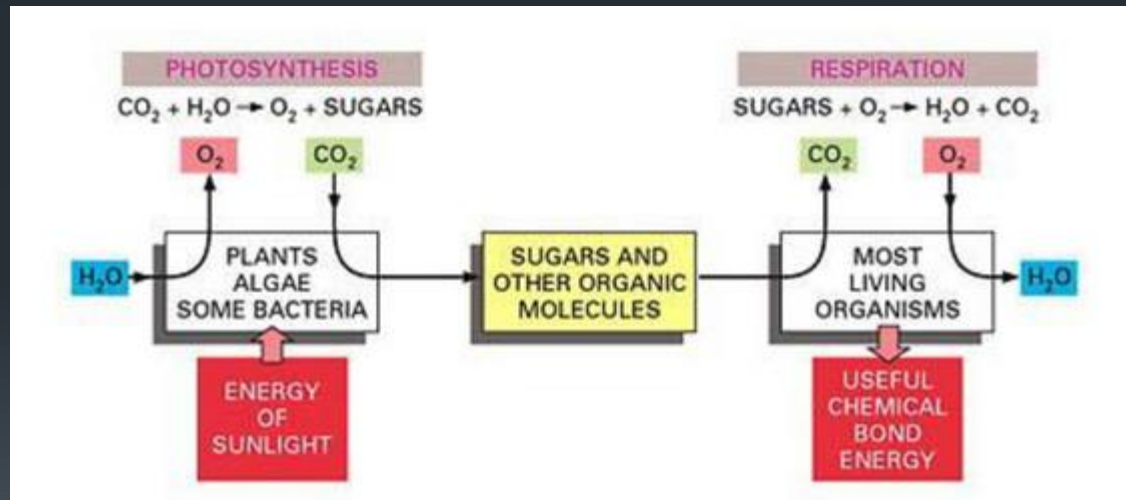


Oxygen

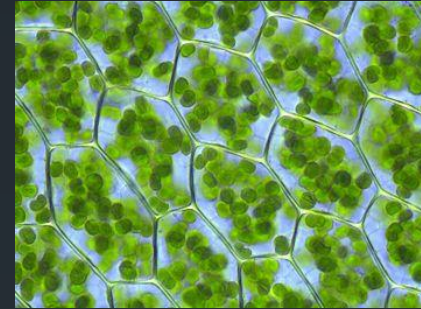
# Overview of Cellular Respiration



# Respiration and Photosynthesis: Complementary processes– to a point

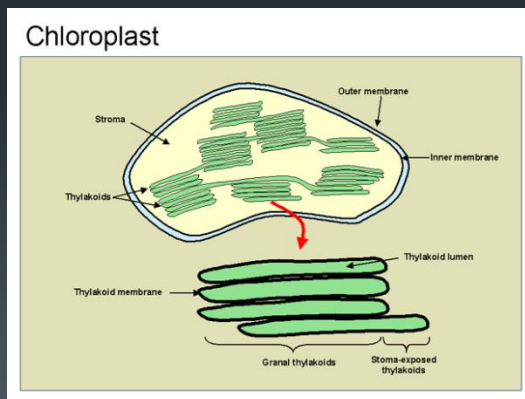


# Two sets of reactions in Chloroplasts



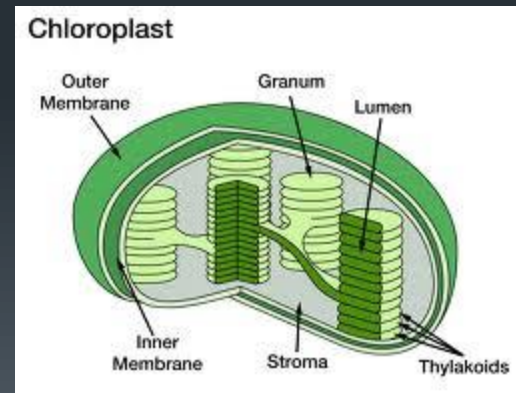
## Light Dependent Rxn

- Thylakoids

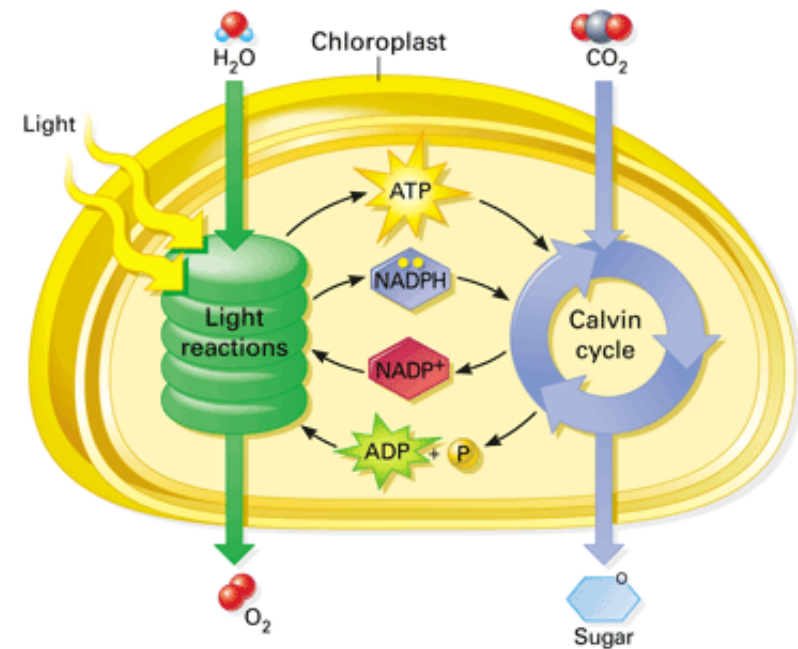
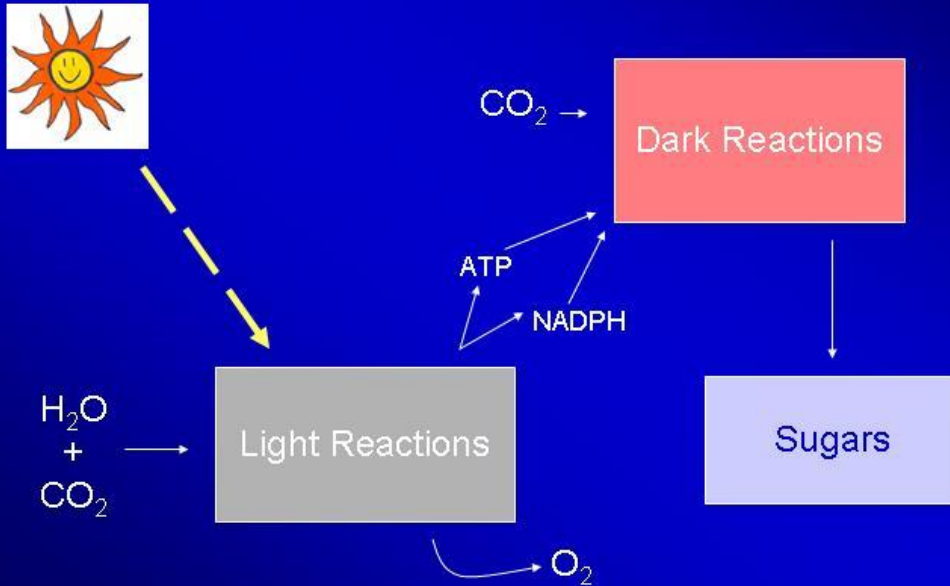


## Light Independent Rxn

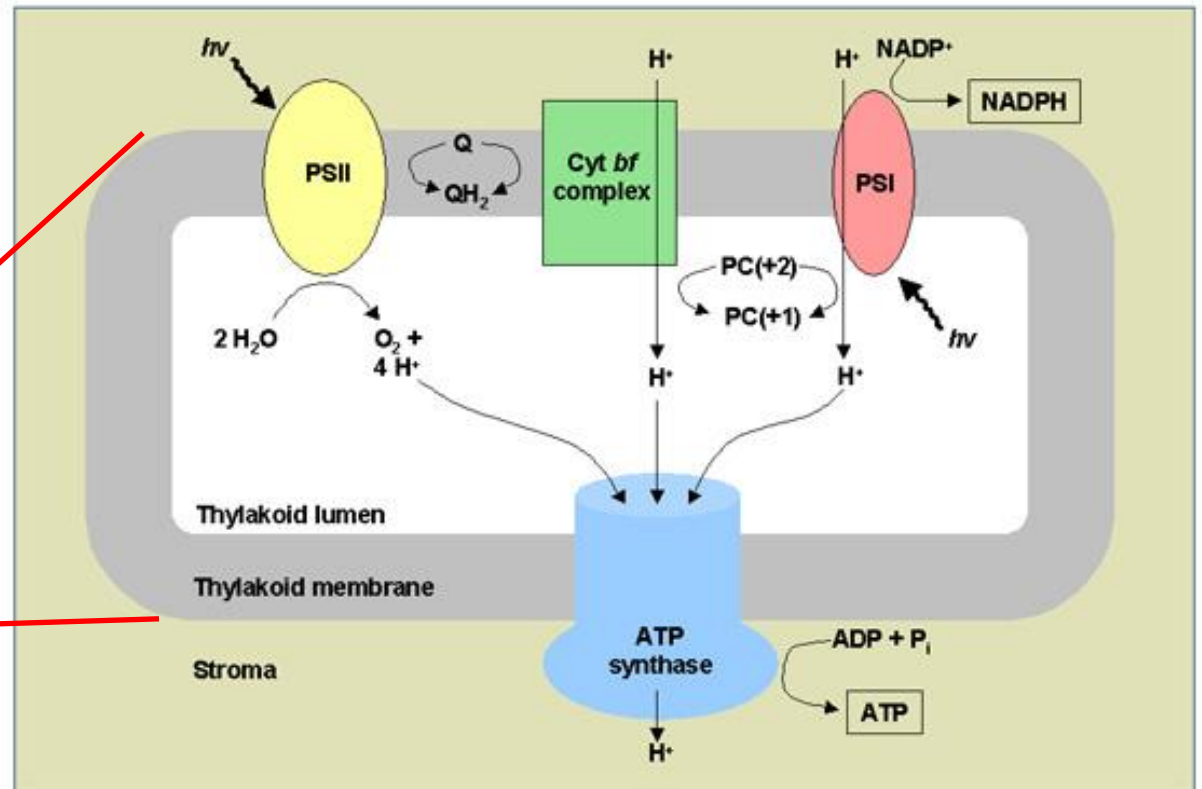
- Stroma



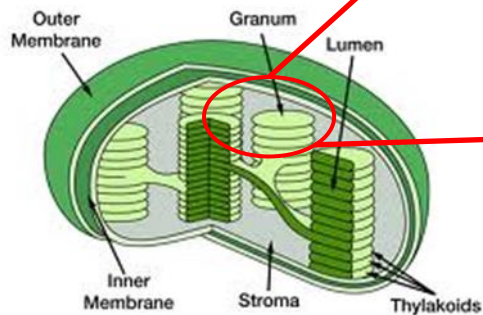
# Overview of Photosynthesis



# Light reactions of photosynthesis



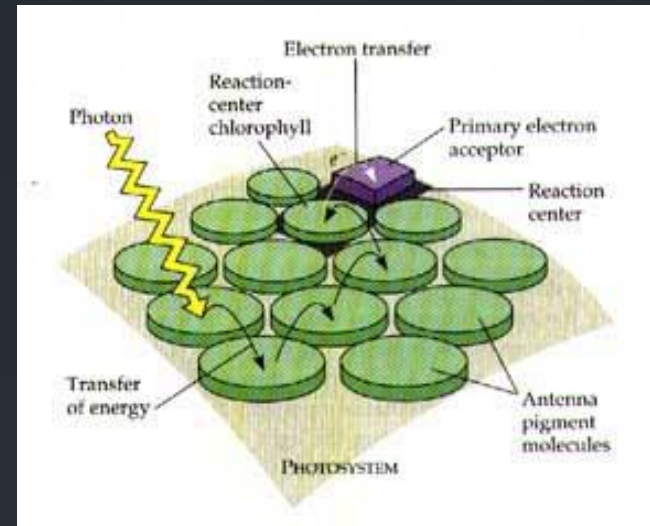
Chloroplast





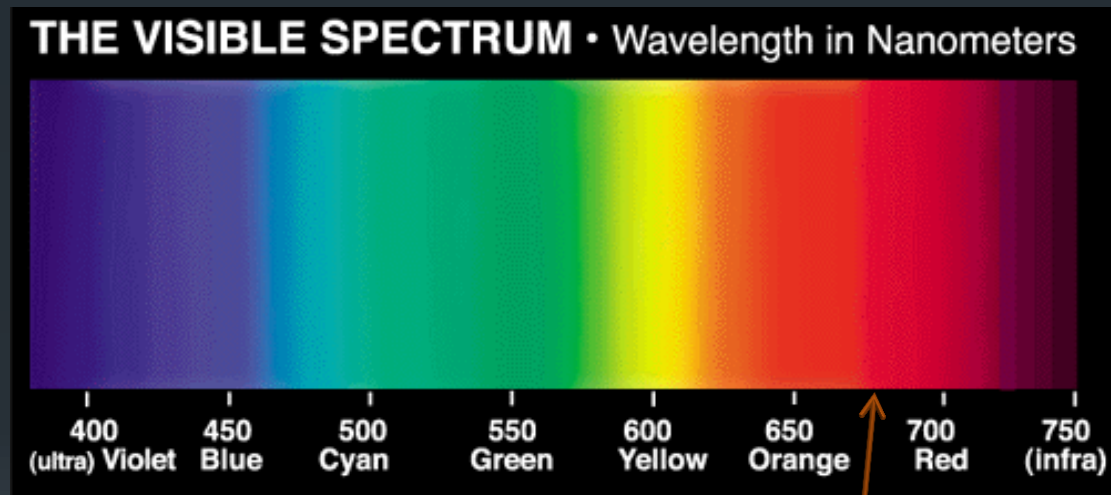
# Photosystems I and II

- Action center of photosystem = modified chlorophyll *a*
- Reaction-center PS I is known as P700 with absorption peak at 700 nm (far-red portion of spectrum)
- PS II is called P680 has absorption peak of 680 nm (red part of the light spectrum)
- P700 and P680, are identical chlorophyll *a* molecules association with different protein molecules in the thylakoid membrane accounts for the slight differences in light-absorbing properties





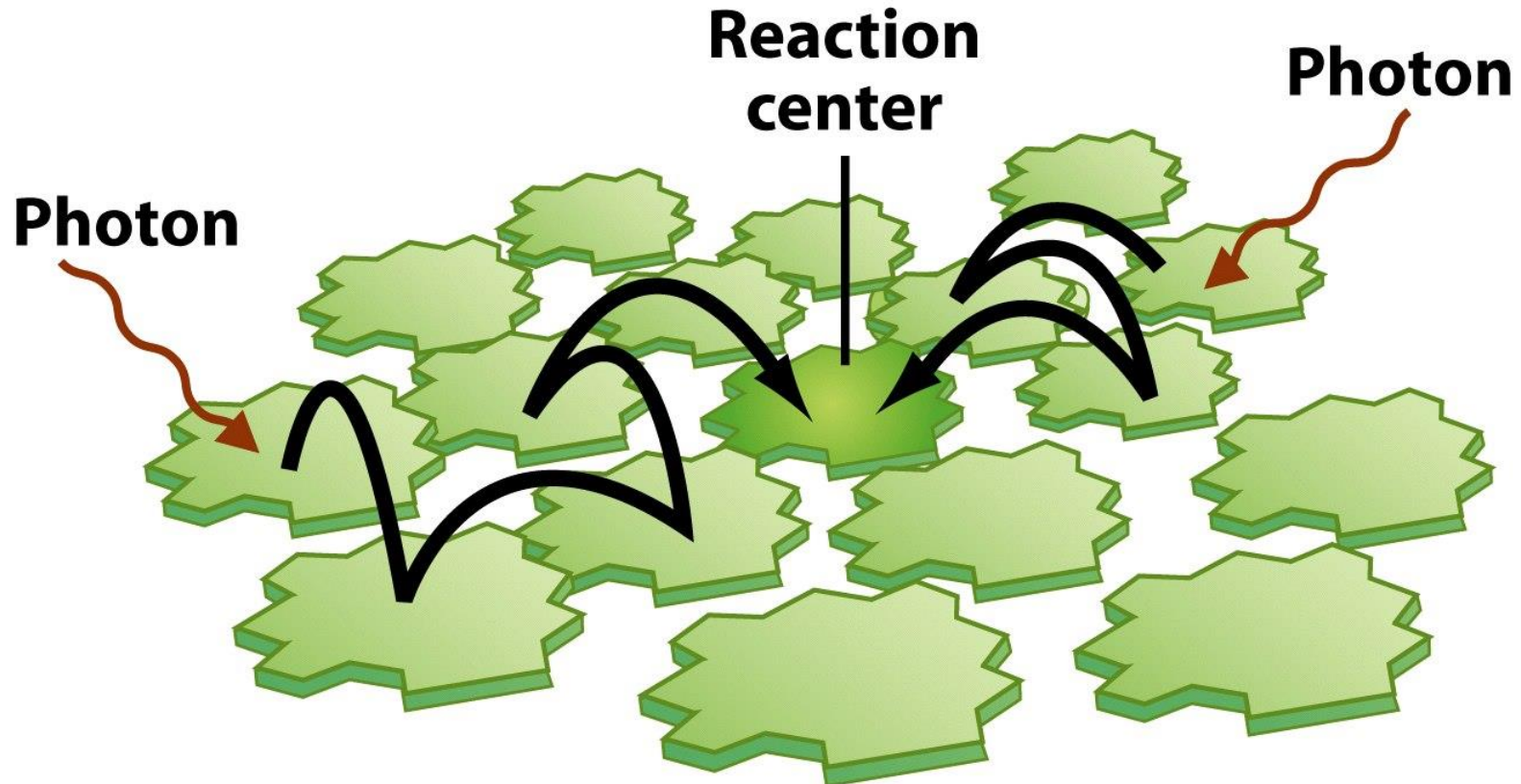
# Visible Spectrum



P680

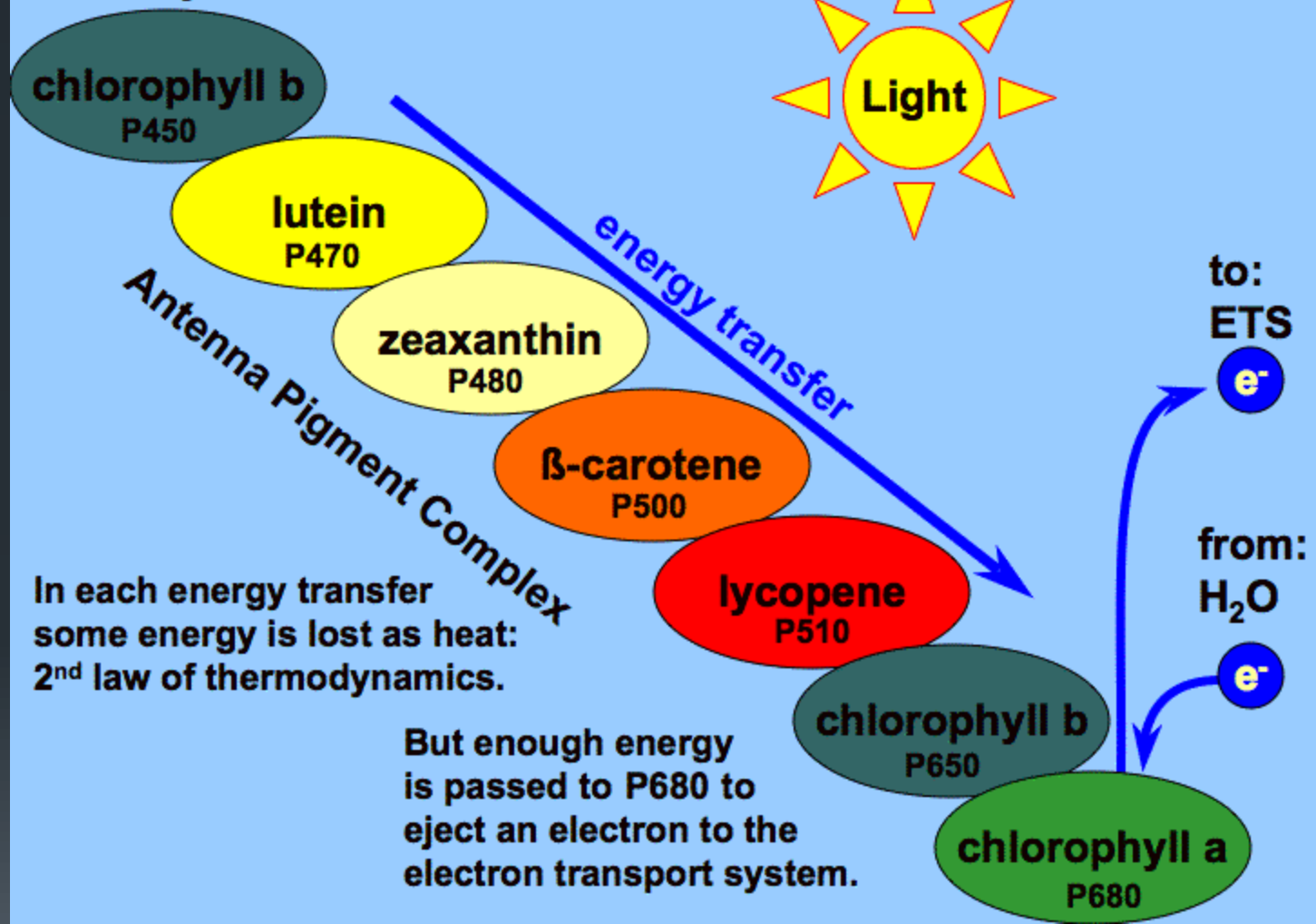
P700

**Chlorophyll molecules transmit energy from excited electrons in the antenna complex to a reaction center.**

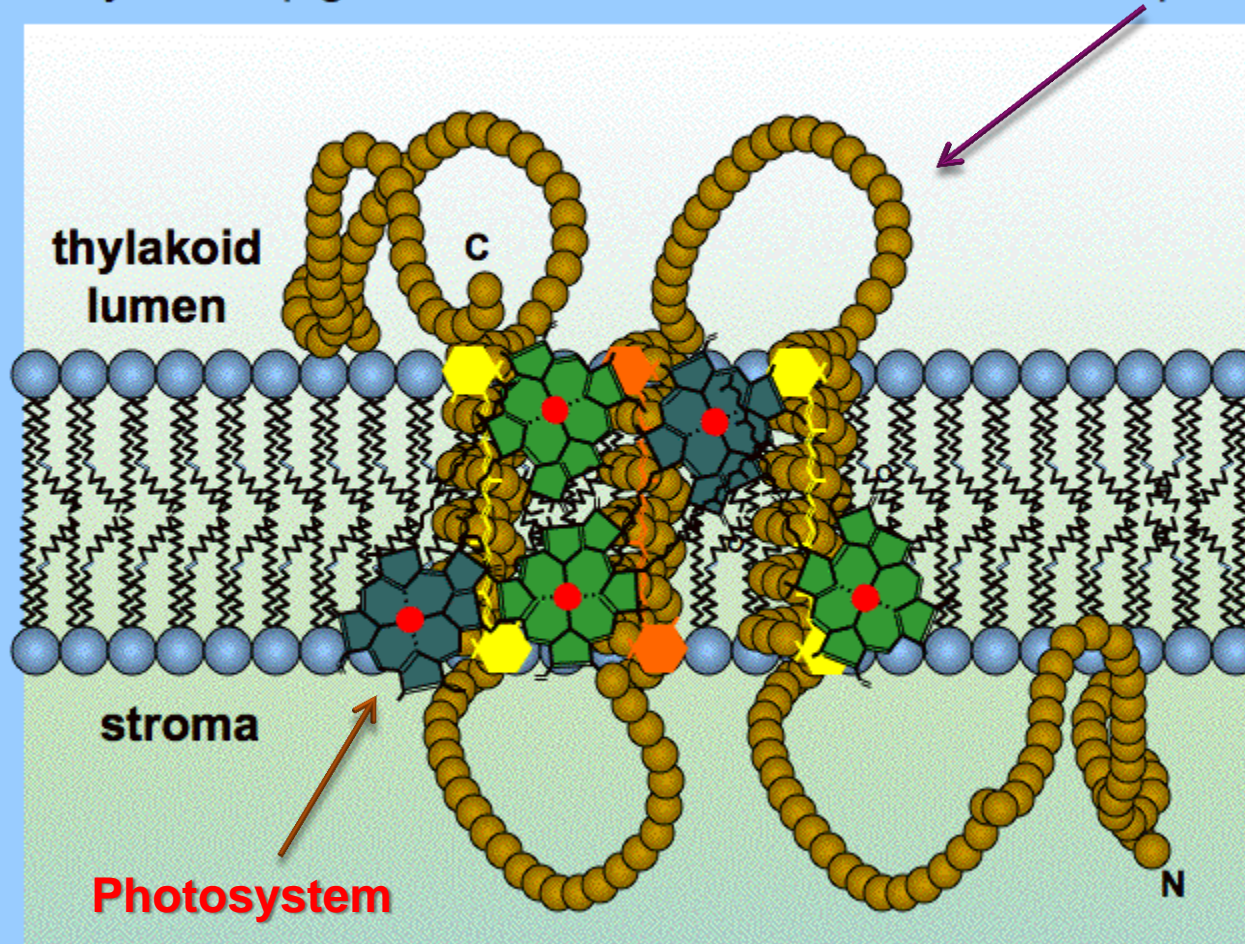


**Chlorophyll molecules in antenna complex**

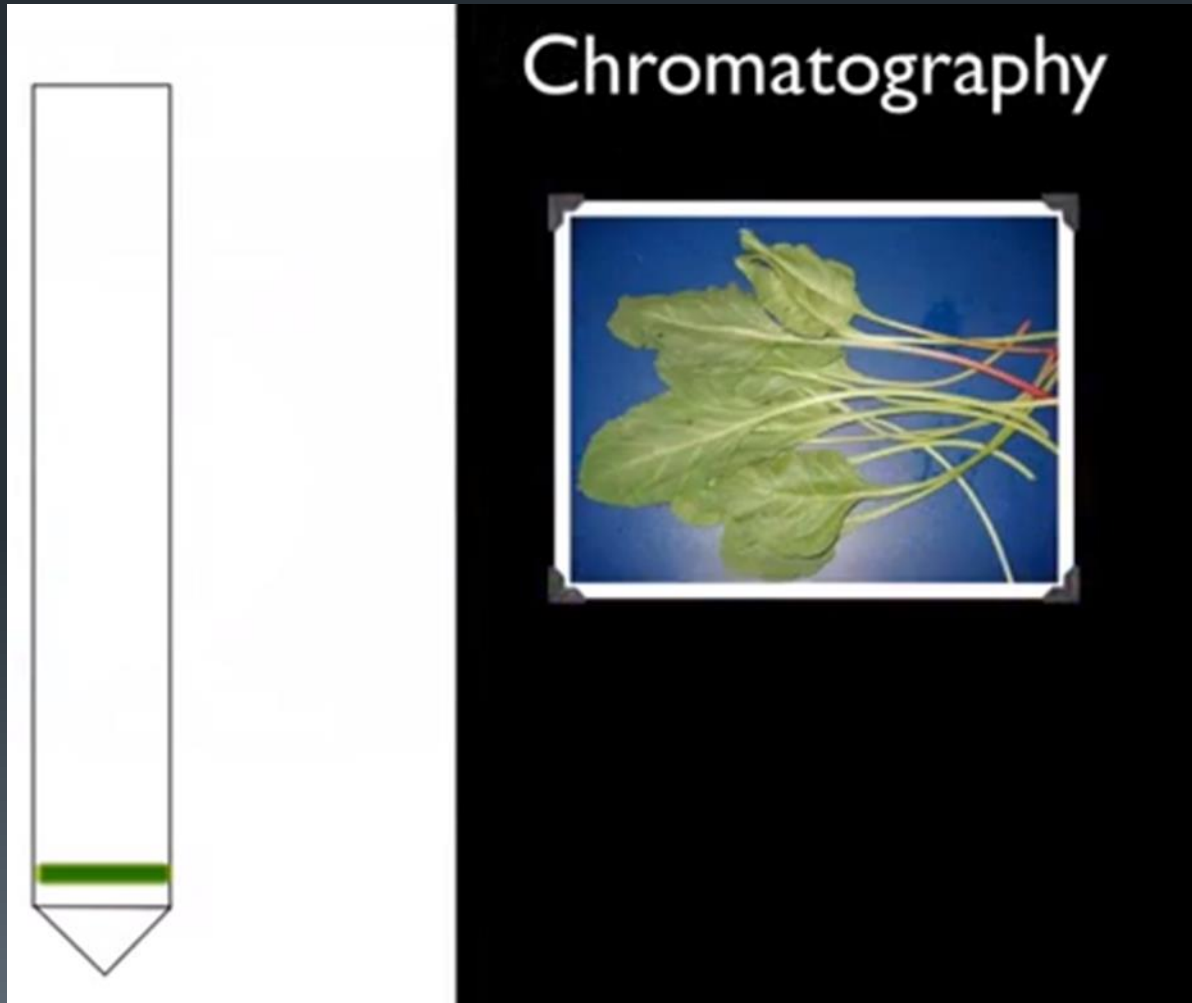
## Photosystem II



Photosynthetic pigments are associated with membrane proteins

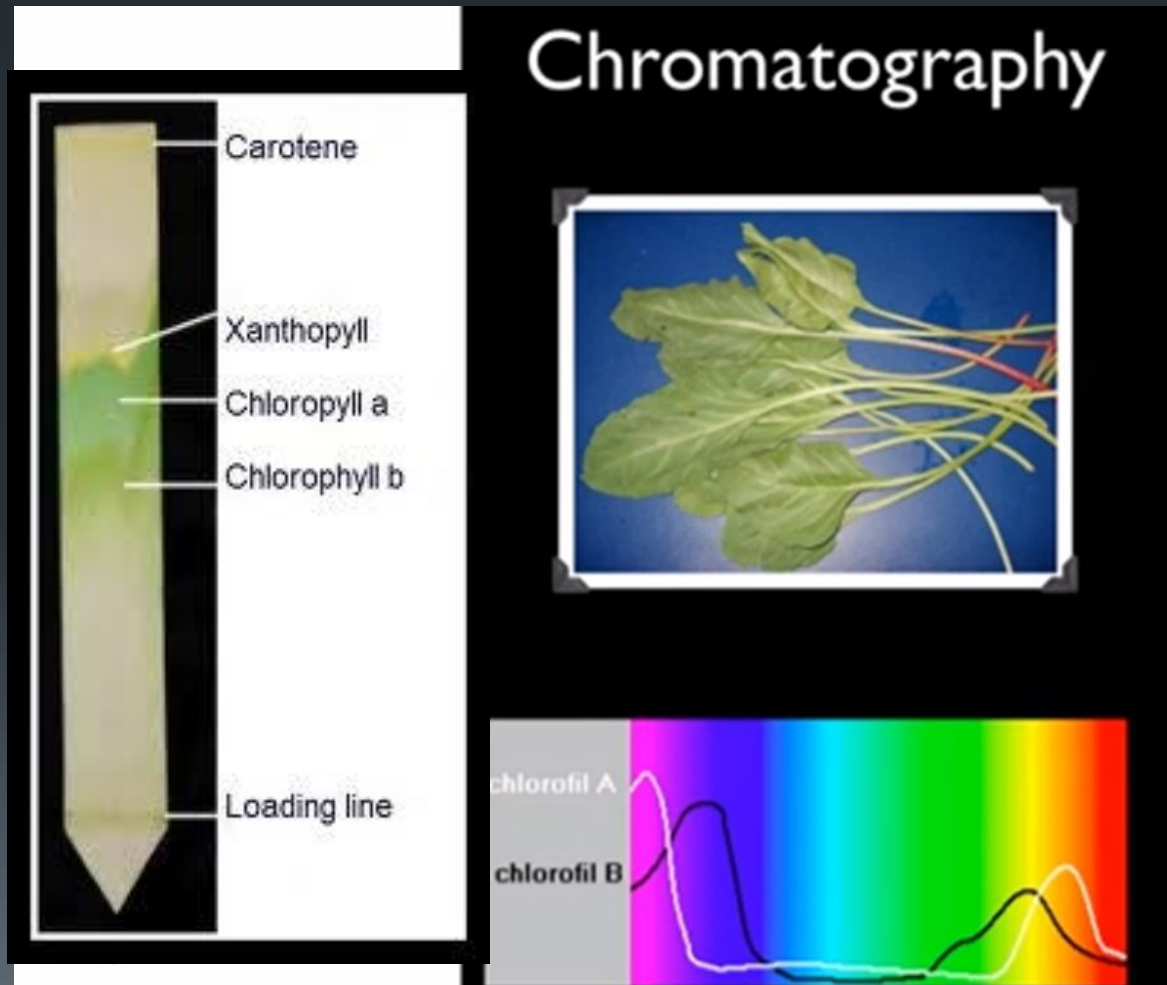


# Photosynthetic pigments

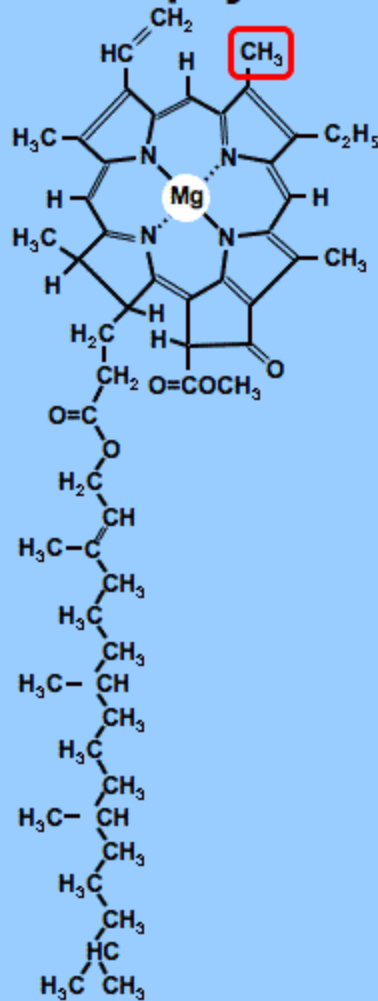




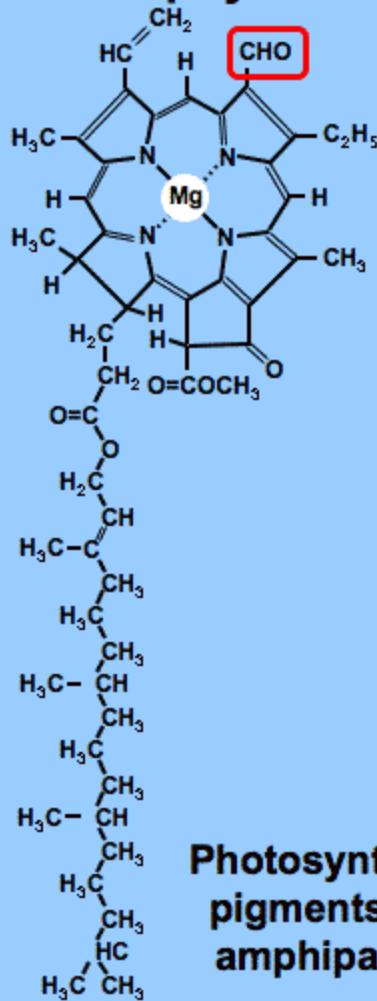
# Photosynthetic pigments



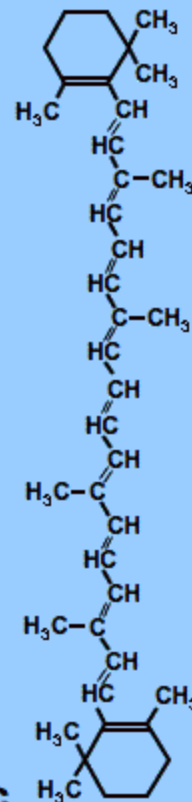
**Chlorophyll a**



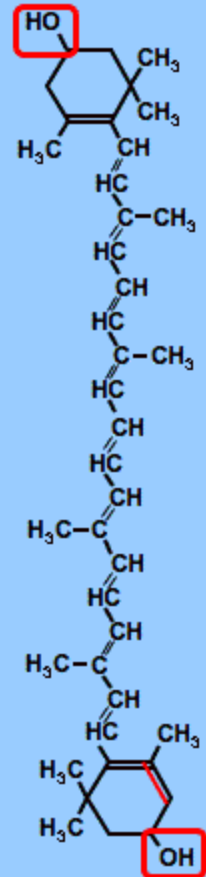
**Chlorophyll b**



**$\beta$ -Carotene**



**Zeaxanthin**

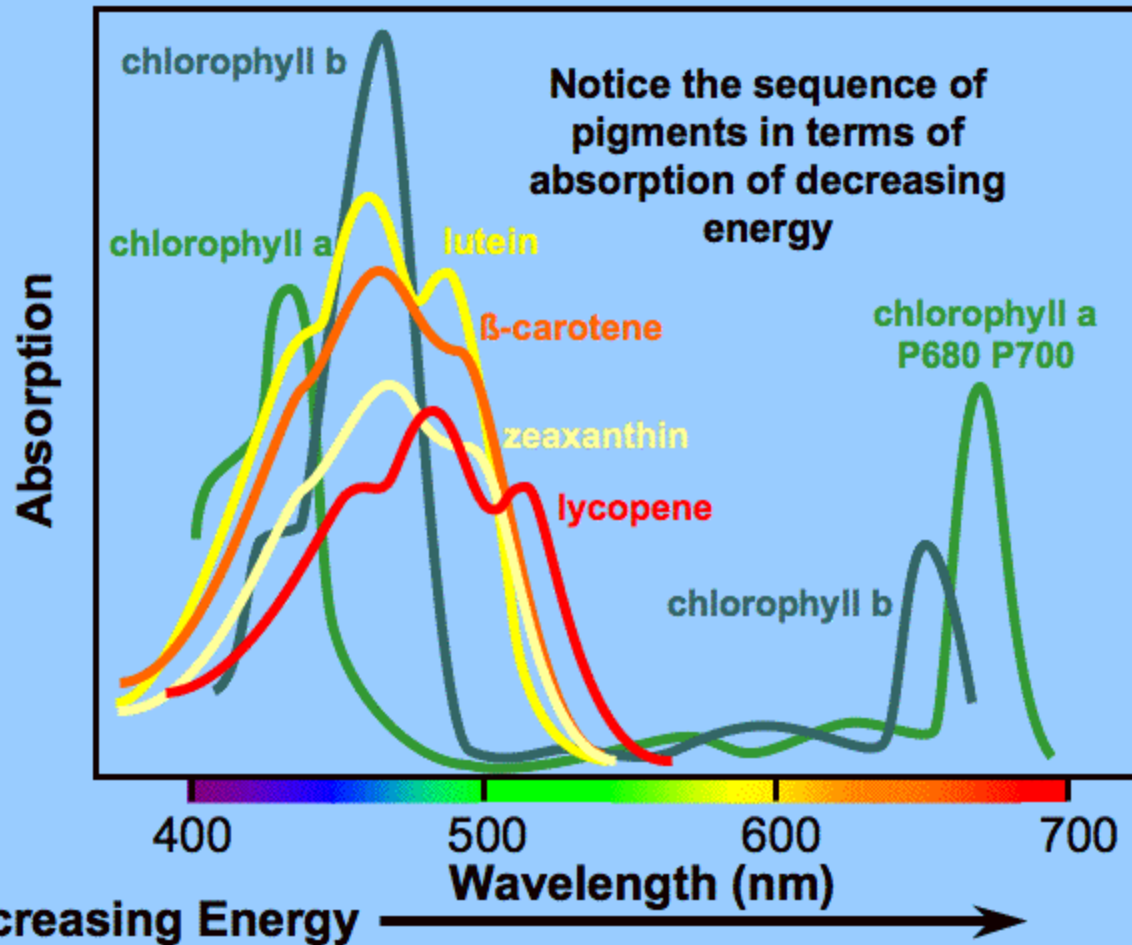


**Photosynthetic pigments are amphipathic**

**Lutein**

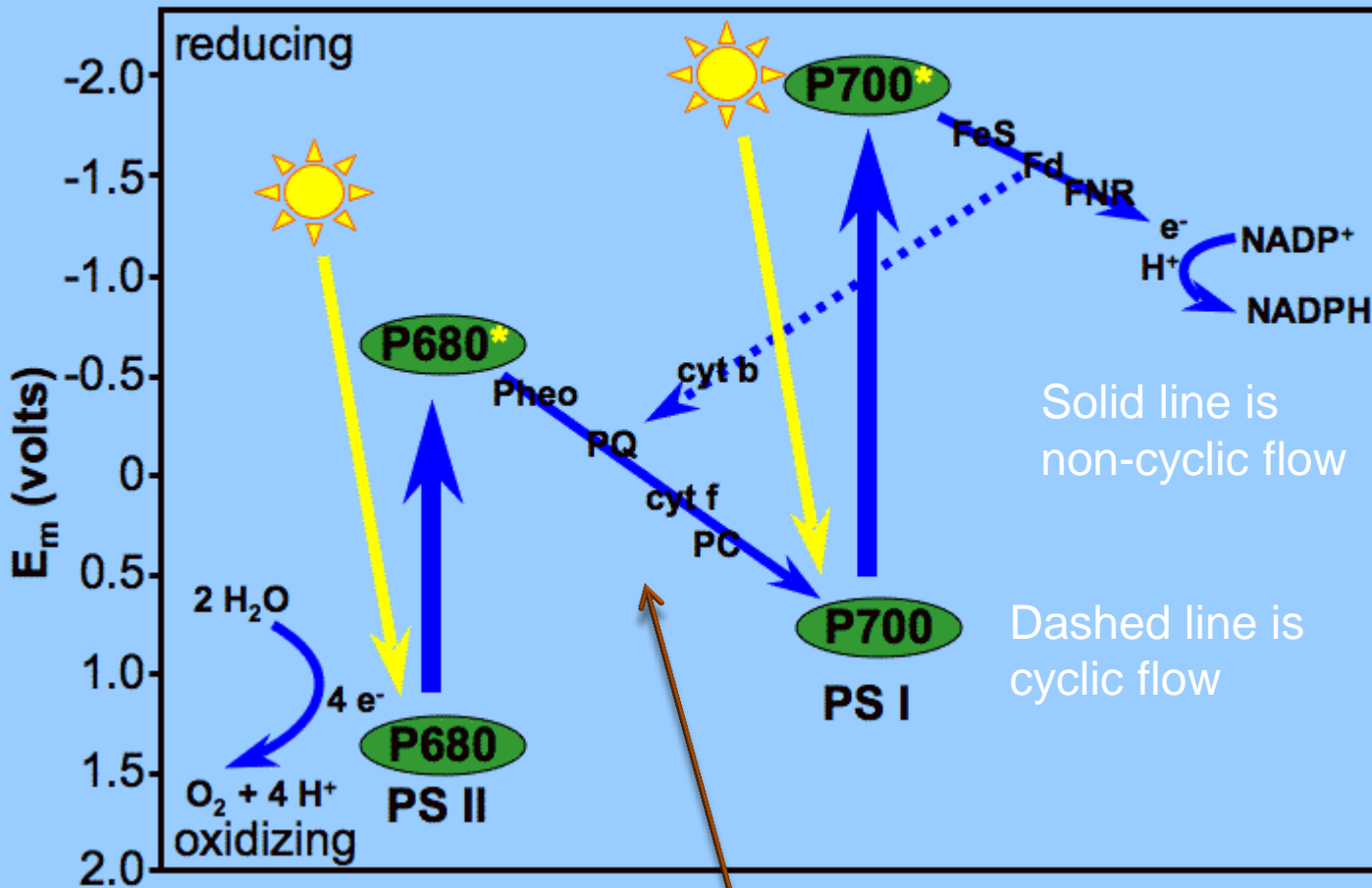


## The photosynthetic pigments absorb much of the spectrum



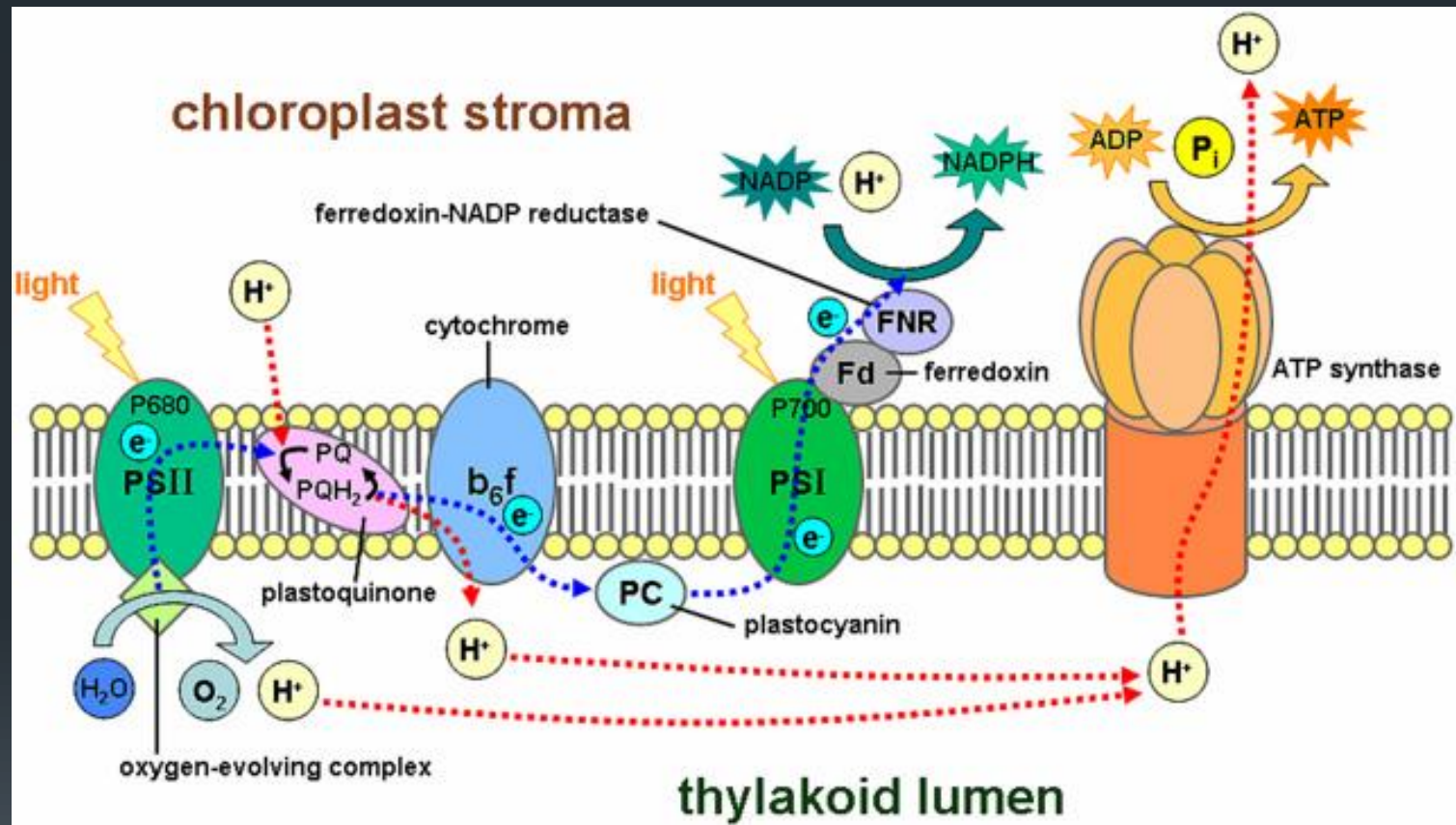
Blue-light is of higher energy than red

# The Z-scheme of the Light Reactions: An Energy Diagram



Hill Reaction

ETS between PSII and PSI  
drives photophosphorylation



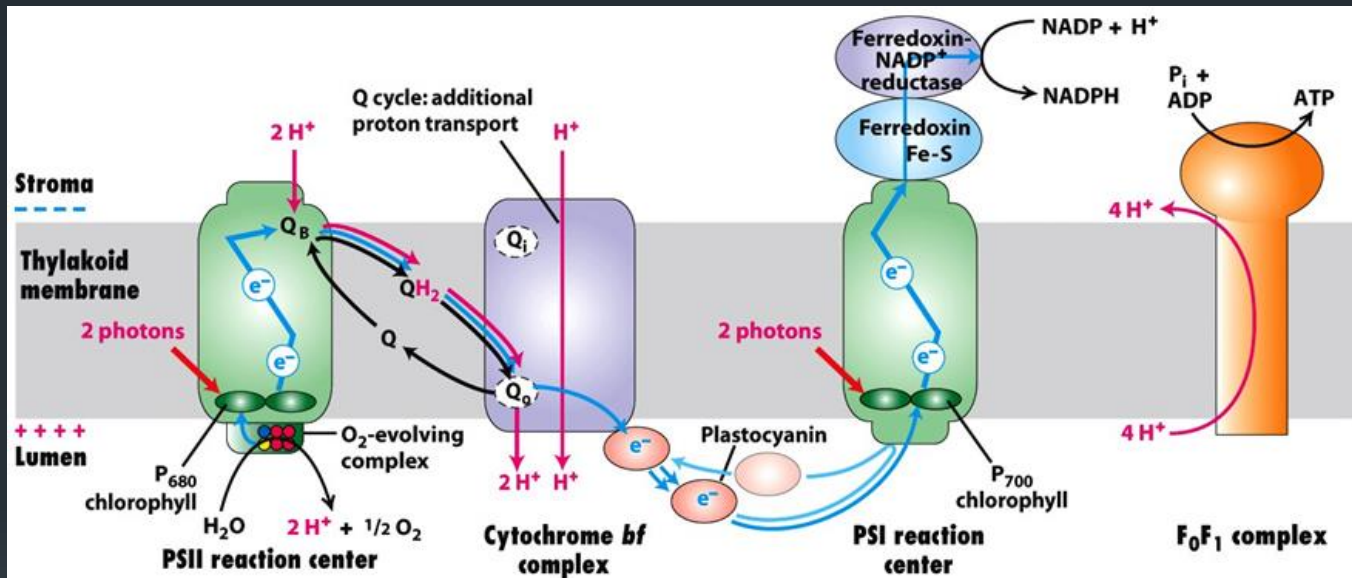
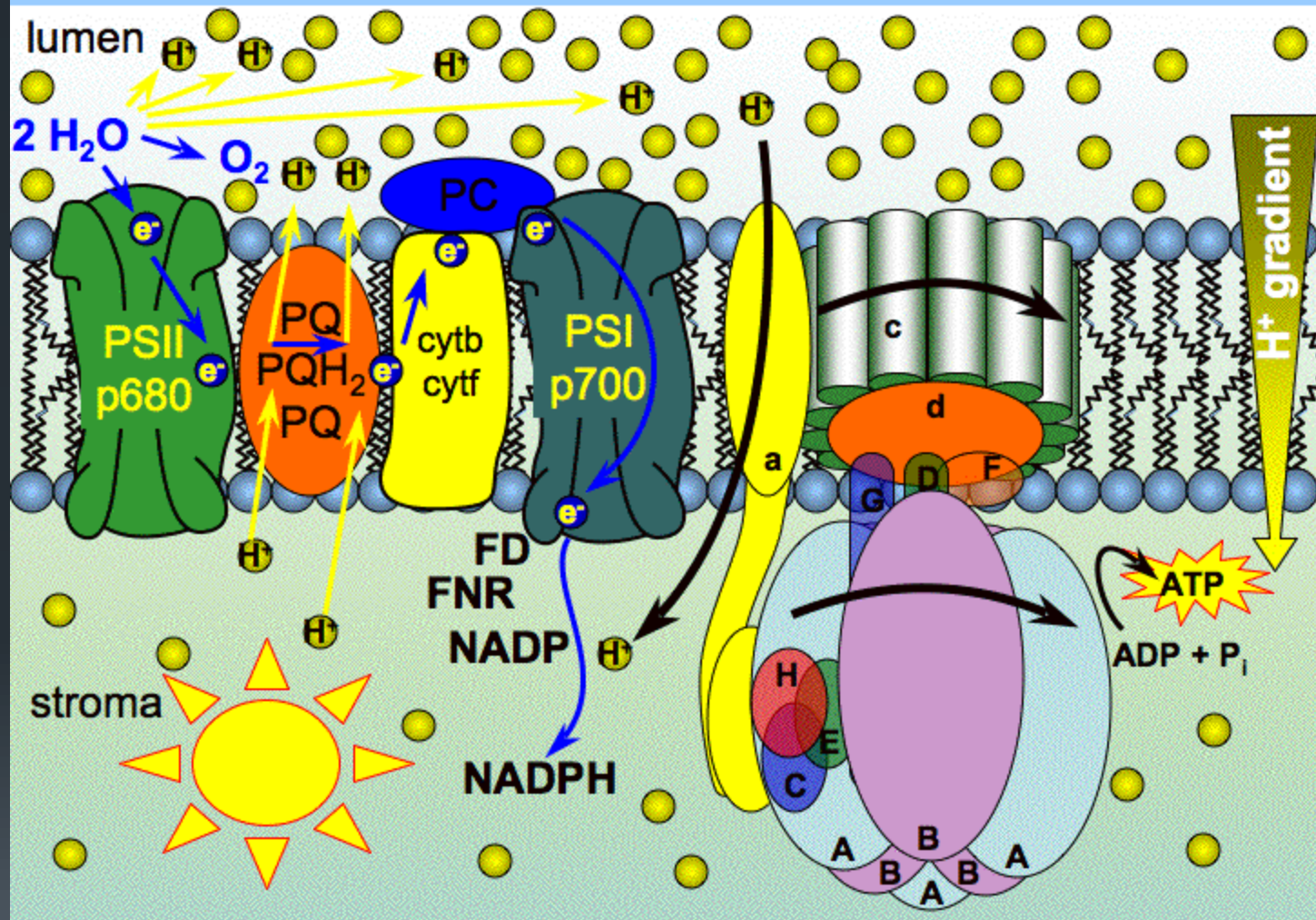


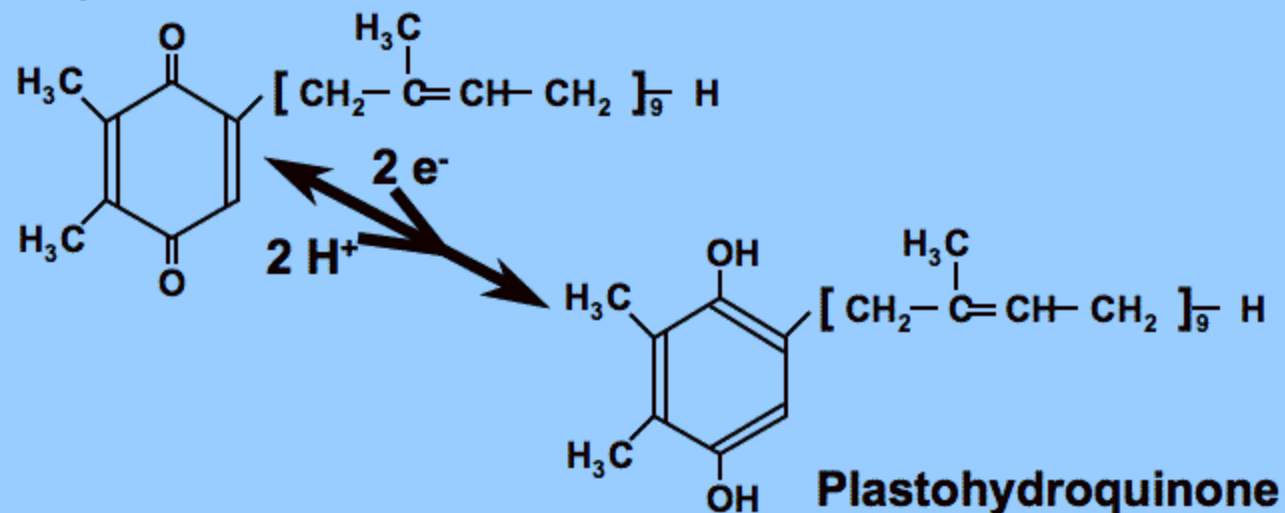
Figure 12-37  
*Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition*  
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## Thylakoid structure and location of the Light Reactions



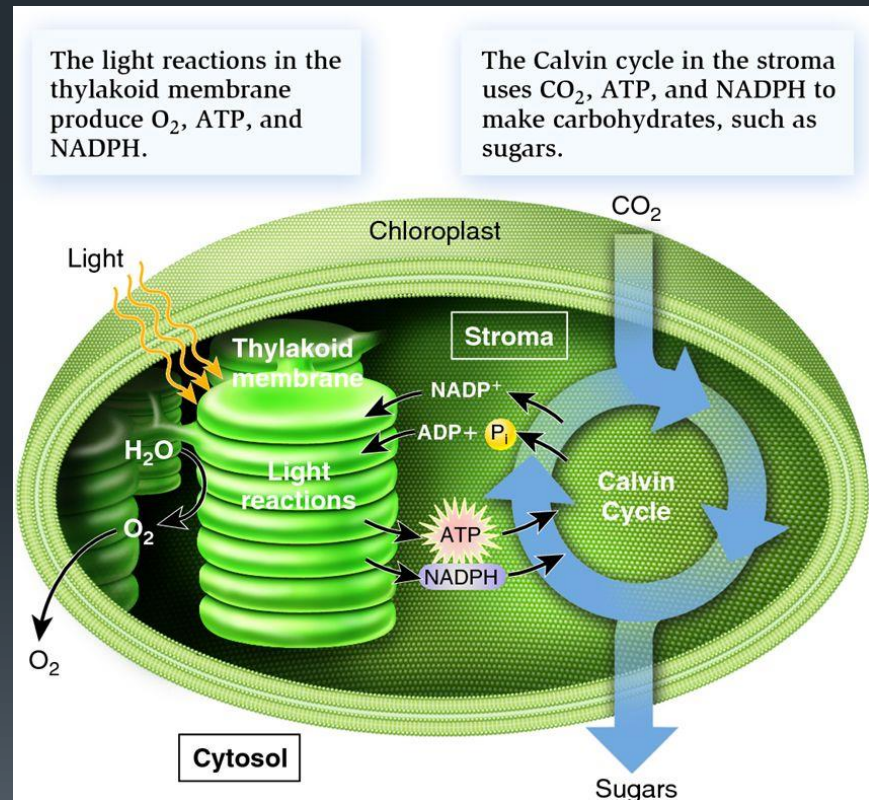
## Plastoquinone is a shuttle for protons across the thylakoid membrane

### Plastoquinone

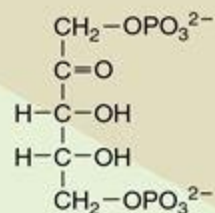
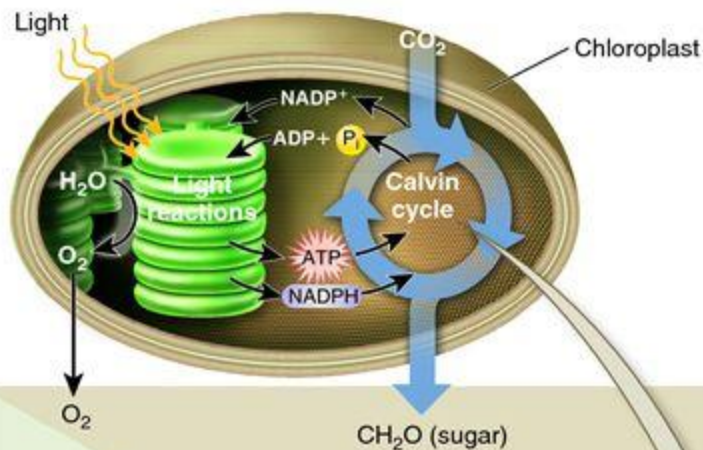




# Light dependent reactions supply ATP and reducing power to the light independent reactions



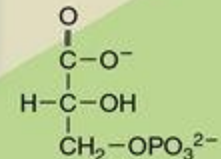




Input  
6 × CO<sub>2</sub>

1

**Phase 1: Carbon fixation.**  
CO<sub>2</sub> is incorporated into an organic molecule via rubisco.



Rubisco 12 × 3-phosphoglycerate (3PG)

12 ATP

12 ADP

6 × Ribulose biphosphate (RuBP)



12 × 1,3-bisphosphoglycerate (1,3-BPG)

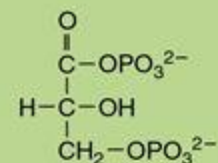


Calvin cycle

12 NADPH

12 NADP<sup>+</sup>

12 P<sub>i</sub>



**3 Phase 3: Regeneration of RuBP.**  
Two G3P are used to make glucose and other sugars; the remaining 10 G3P are needed to regenerate RuBP via several enzymes. ATP is required for RuBP regeneration.

6 ADP

6 ATP

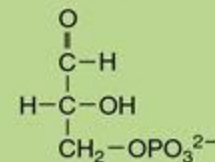
10 × G3P



12 × Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate (G3P)



2 × G3P

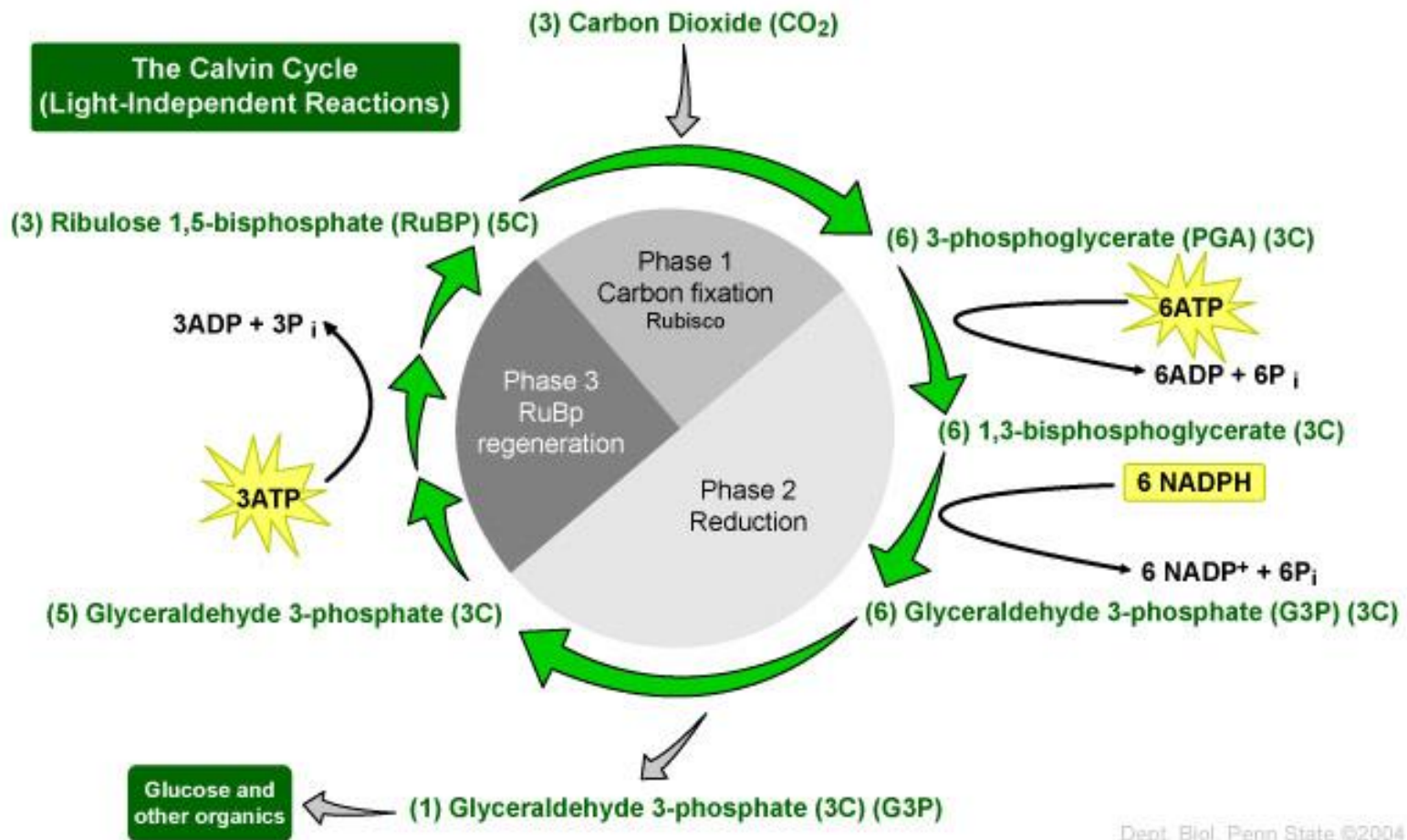


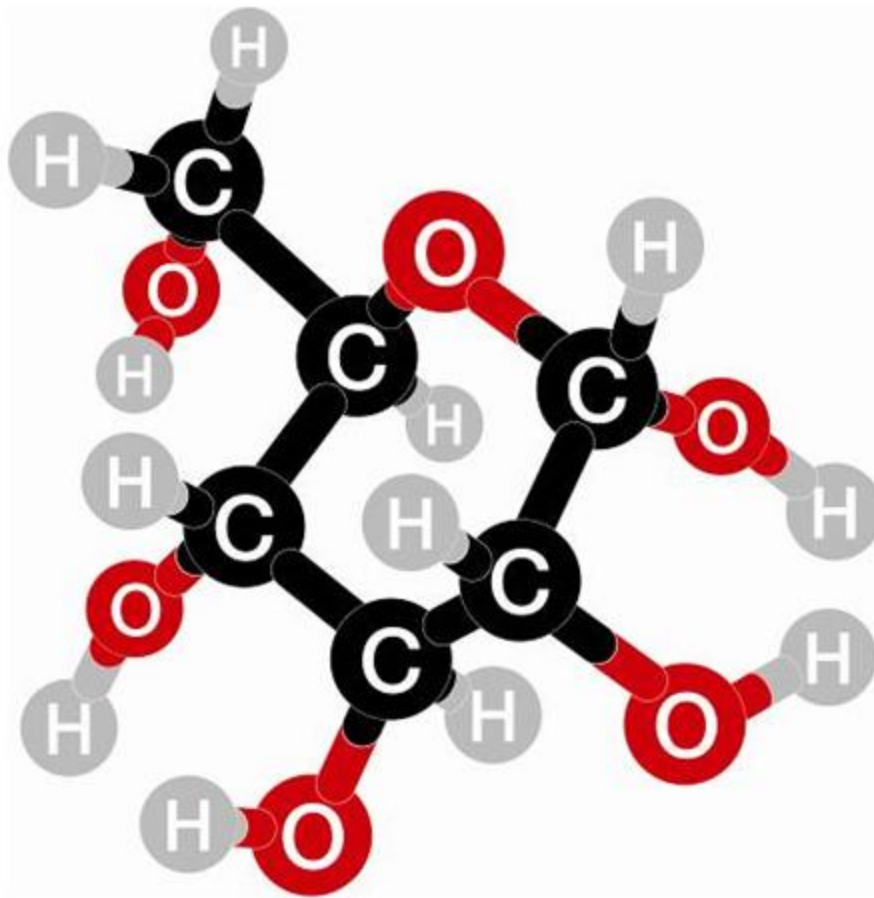
2

**Phase 2: Reduction and carbohydrate production.**  
ATP is used as a source of energy, and NADPH donates high-energy electrons.

Glucose and other sugars

## The Calvin Cycle (Light-Independent Reactions)





Glucose is a simple, soluble sugar.

Often incorrectly listed as product of Calvin cycle



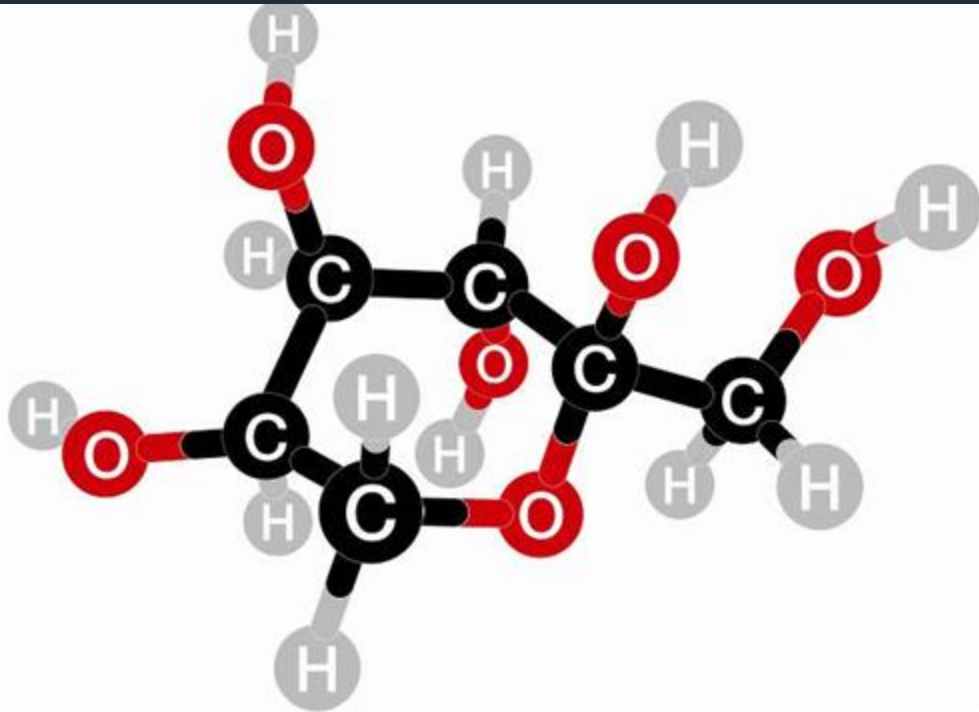
# Exit Product of Calvin Cycle

- One G3P (Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate) molecule exits the Calvin cycle
- This is the product of the Calvin cycle
  - This exiting G3P molecule is readily converted to glucose in reactions outside of the Calvin cycle
- The other 5 G3P molecules remain in the Calvin cycle

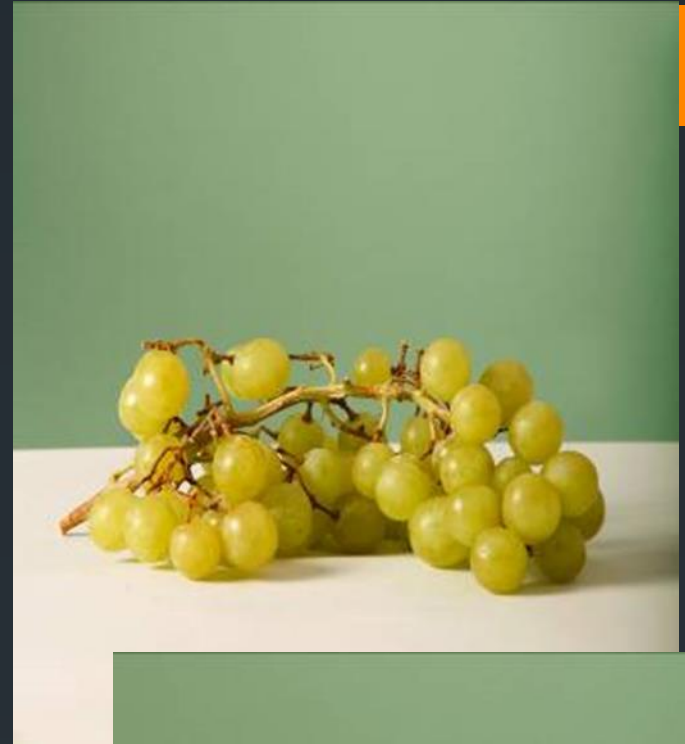


# The ultimate product of photosynthesis is the whole plant

- G3P is converted into sugars, starches, proteins, etc.
- G3P is ultimately converted into all of the organic molecules present within the plant
- Photosynthesis produces approximately 155 billion tons of material per year

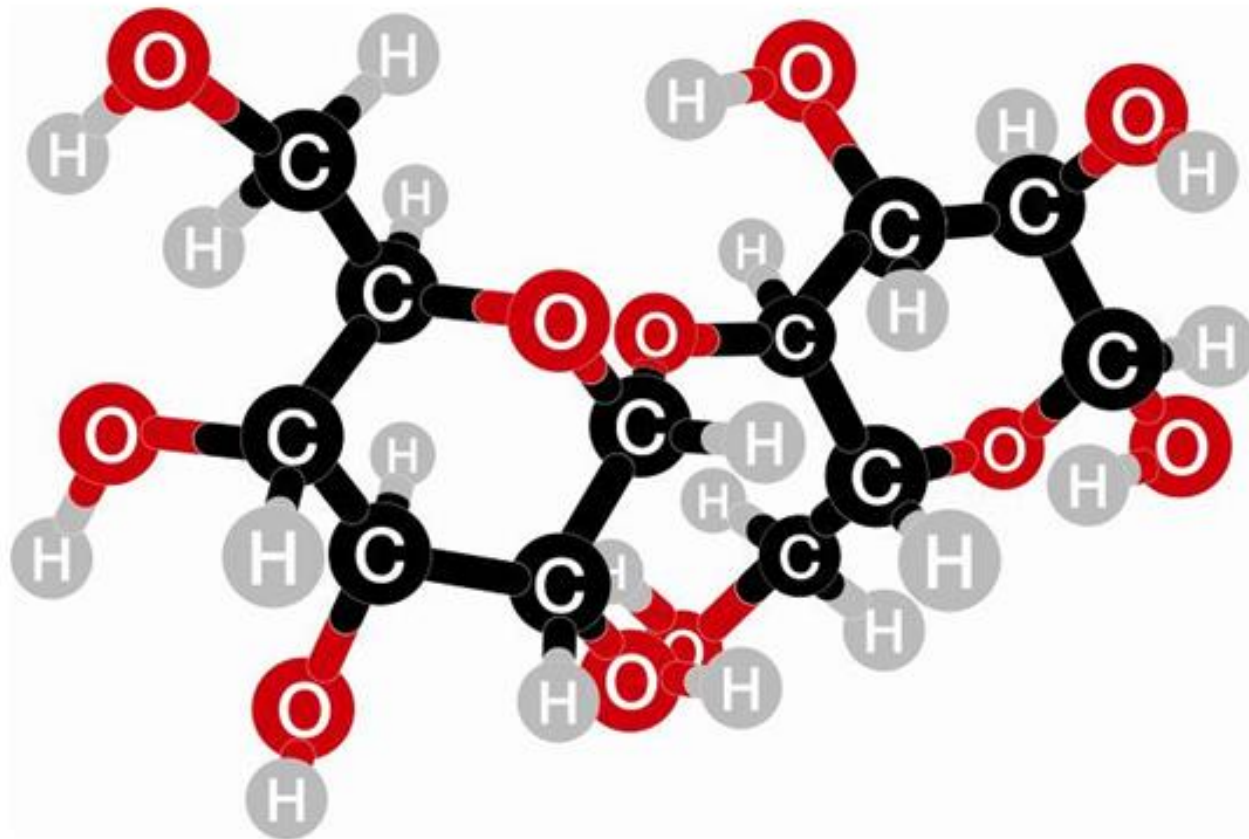


Fructose





Sucrose is made from one molecule of glucose and one of fructose.. The kind of sugar you sprinkle on your cereal or have in your tea.



Sucrose

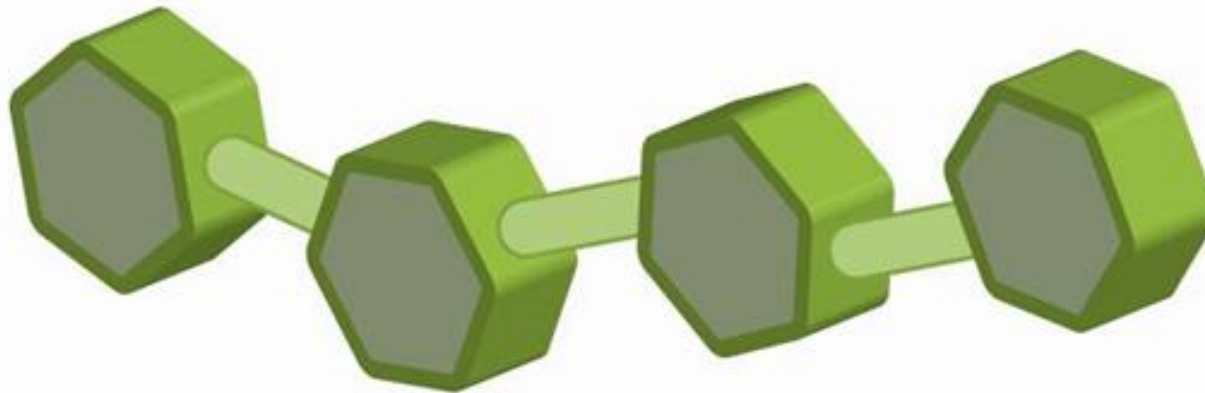
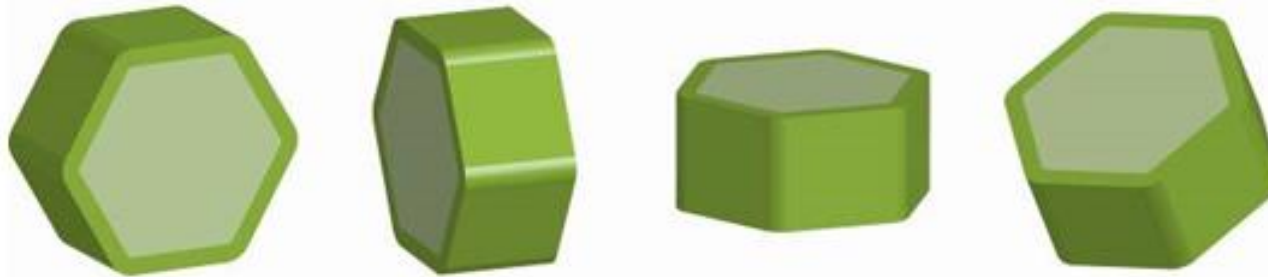




Sucrose is found in almost all plants but it occurs at concentrations high enough for economic recovery in only sugar cane and sugar beet.



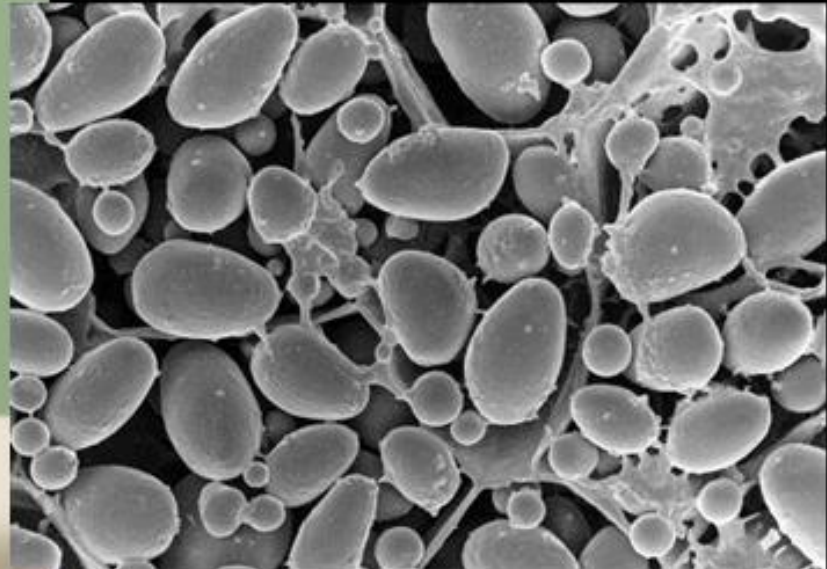
Glucose molecules



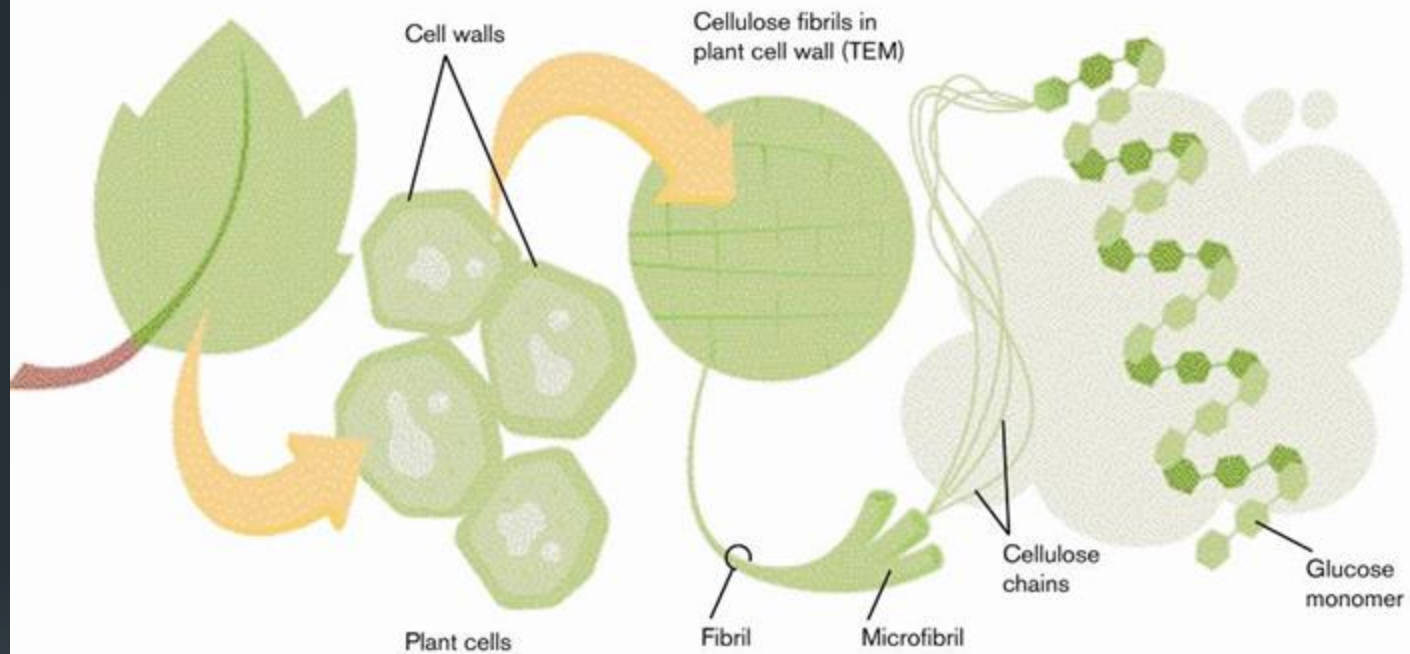
Starch chain

Glucose molecules join together to form long chains. One of these polymers is called starch.

These are starch grains from a potato. You can look at them easily under a microscope just by staining a very thin slice of potato with iodine solution.







Another type of polymer made from glucose molecules is cellulose. Cellulose chains form fibrils that make up the cell wall structure of all plant cells.

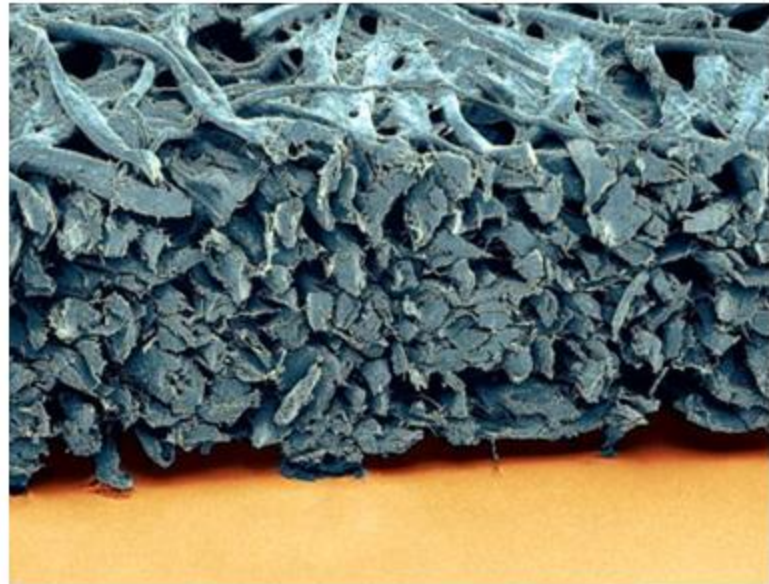


## Plant cell wall

Coloured scanning electron micrograph (SEM) of cellulose microfibrils (strands) in a plant cell wall. Unlike animal cells, plants cells are enclosed in a protective rigid cell wall. The main constituent of the wall is cellulose, a complex polysaccharide that forms microfibrils. Cellulose microfibrils measure between 5 nanometres and 15 nanometres in diameter.

## Filter paper

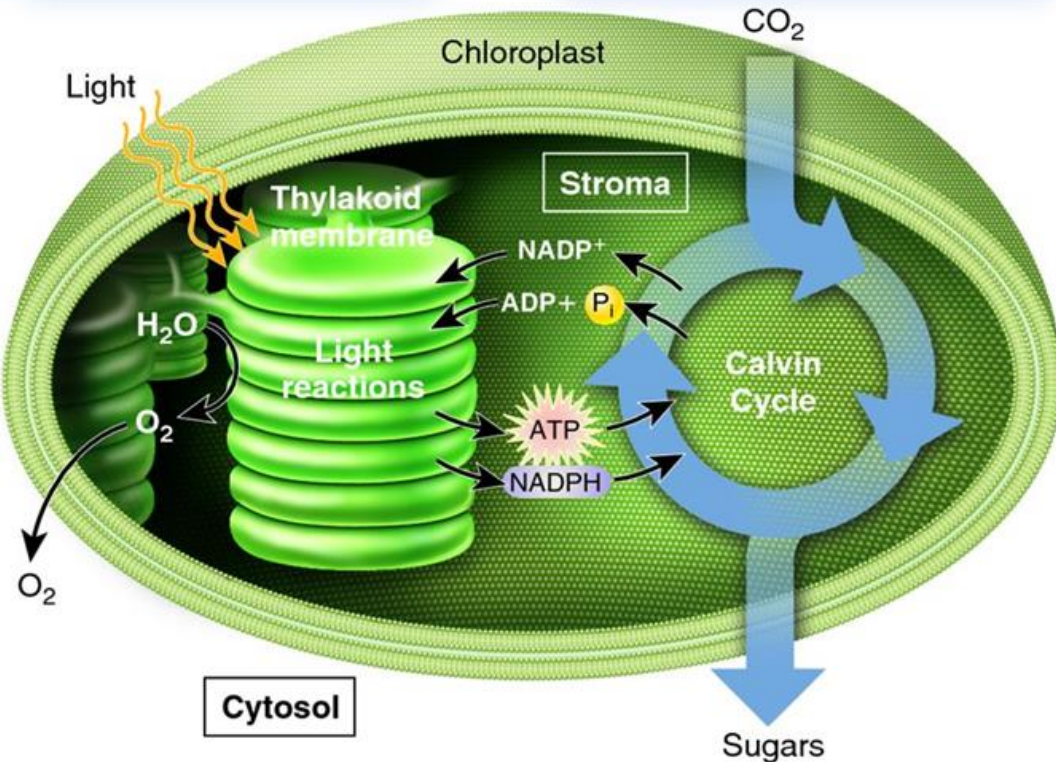
Coloured scanning electron micrograph (SEM) of the cut end of a piece of filter paper showing its many cellulose fibres. Cellulose is a polysaccharide that is the main constituent of all plant tissues and fibres. Filter paper is a porous material used for separating the liquid and solid parts of a suspension and, being made from wood pulp, is almost pure cellulose.





The light reactions in the thylakoid membrane produce  $O_2$ , ATP, and NADPH.

The Calvin cycle in the stroma uses  $CO_2$ , ATP, and NADPH to make carbohydrates, such as sugars.



## Recap

- $3 CO_2 + 3 RuBP \rightarrow 6 PGA$
- $6 PGA \rightarrow 6 G3P$ 
  - 6 ATP and 6 NADPH spent
  - One G3P removed as product
- $5 G3P \rightarrow 3 RuBP$ 
  - 3 ATP are spent
- **Overall:**  
 $3 CO_2 \rightarrow 1 G3P$
- The product of photosynthesis is a sugar – G3P, not glucose
- G3P can be readily converted into many other molecules
  - e.g., Two G3P  $\rightarrow$  glucose

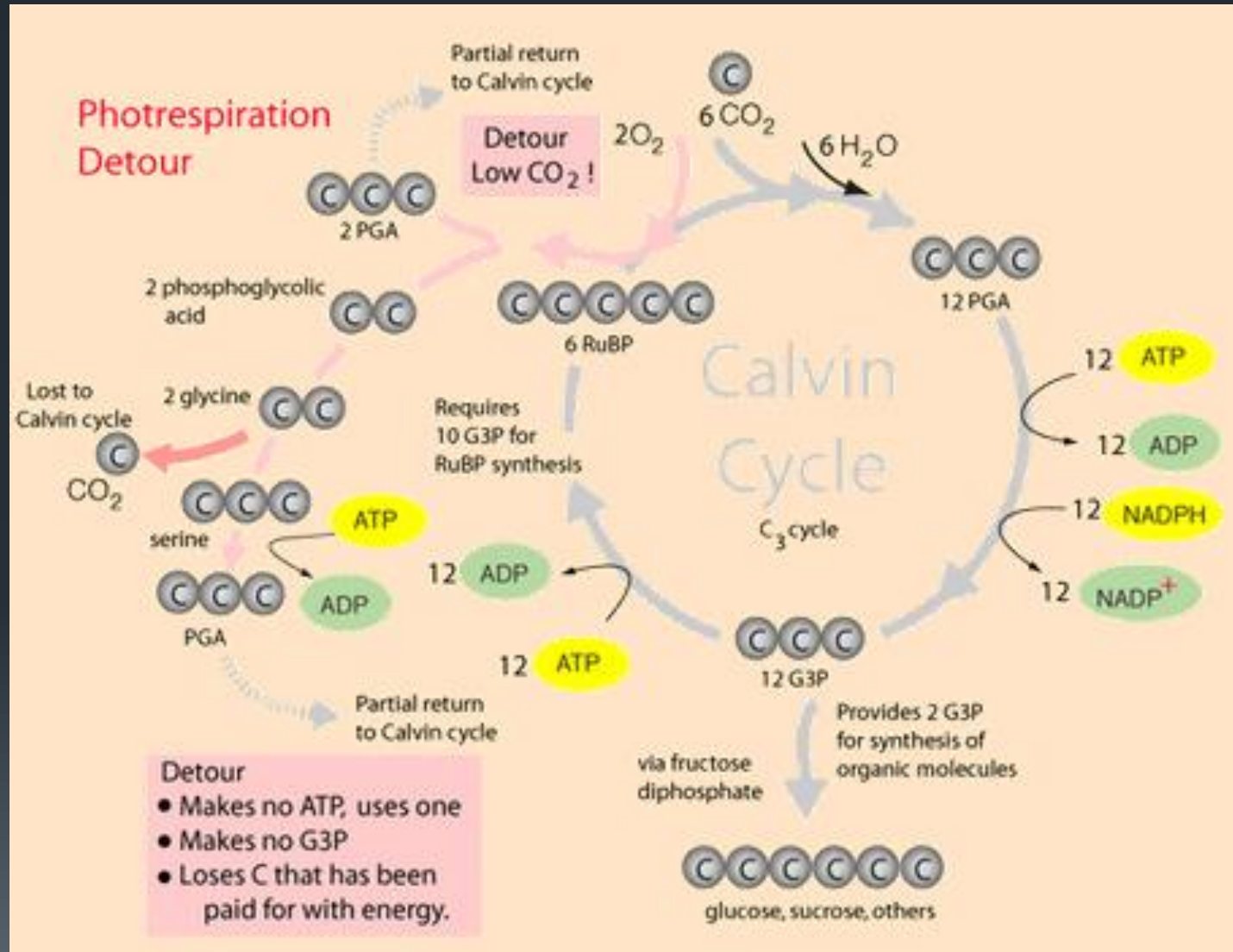
# Evolution of Oxygen in Atmosphere

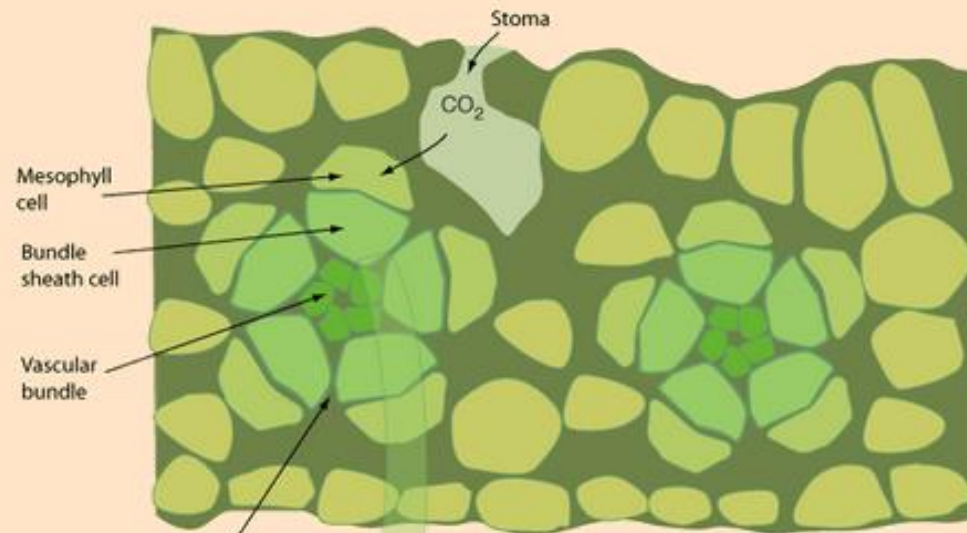
- The early Earth's atmosphere lacked O<sub>2</sub>
  - 21% of the Earth's current atmosphere is O<sub>2</sub>
- This O<sub>2</sub> is a product of photosynthesis
  - When water is split to yield electrons, O<sub>2</sub> is incidentally formed
  - $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{H}^+ + \frac{1}{2} \text{O}_2 + 2 \text{e}^-$
- This waste product of photosynthesis is critically important to humans and many other species

# Photosynthetic Machinery

- C3 plants
  - 85% of plant species are C3 plants
  - Cereal grains: wheat, rice, barley, oats, peanuts, cotton, sugar beets, tobacco, spinach, soybeans, and most trees, most lawn grasses such as rye and fescue
- C4 plants
  - 0.4% of known species of plants are C4 plant
  - Corn, sorghum, sugarcane and millet, crabgrass and bermuda grass, many tropical grasses and sedges
- CAM plants
  - 10% of the plant species
  - Cacti, orchids, maternity plant, wax plant, pineapple, Spanish moss, and some ferns, pineapple and Agave

## CO<sub>2</sub> levels in chloroplasts below 50 ppm



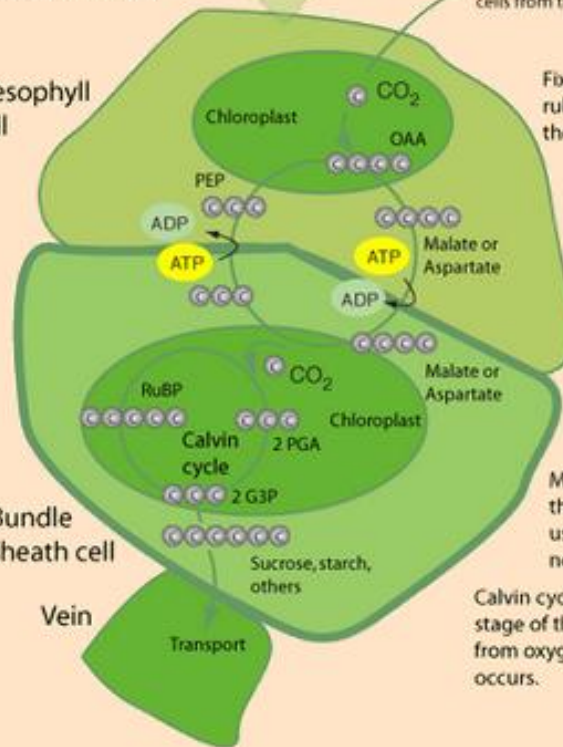


Kranz or "halo" anatomy of cells clustered around the vascular bundles.

Section of a leaf of a C<sub>4</sub> plant.

CO<sub>2</sub> diffuses into the mesophyll cells from the nearby stoma.

Mesophyll cell



Fixes carbon, but has no rubisco and does not employ the Calvin cycle.

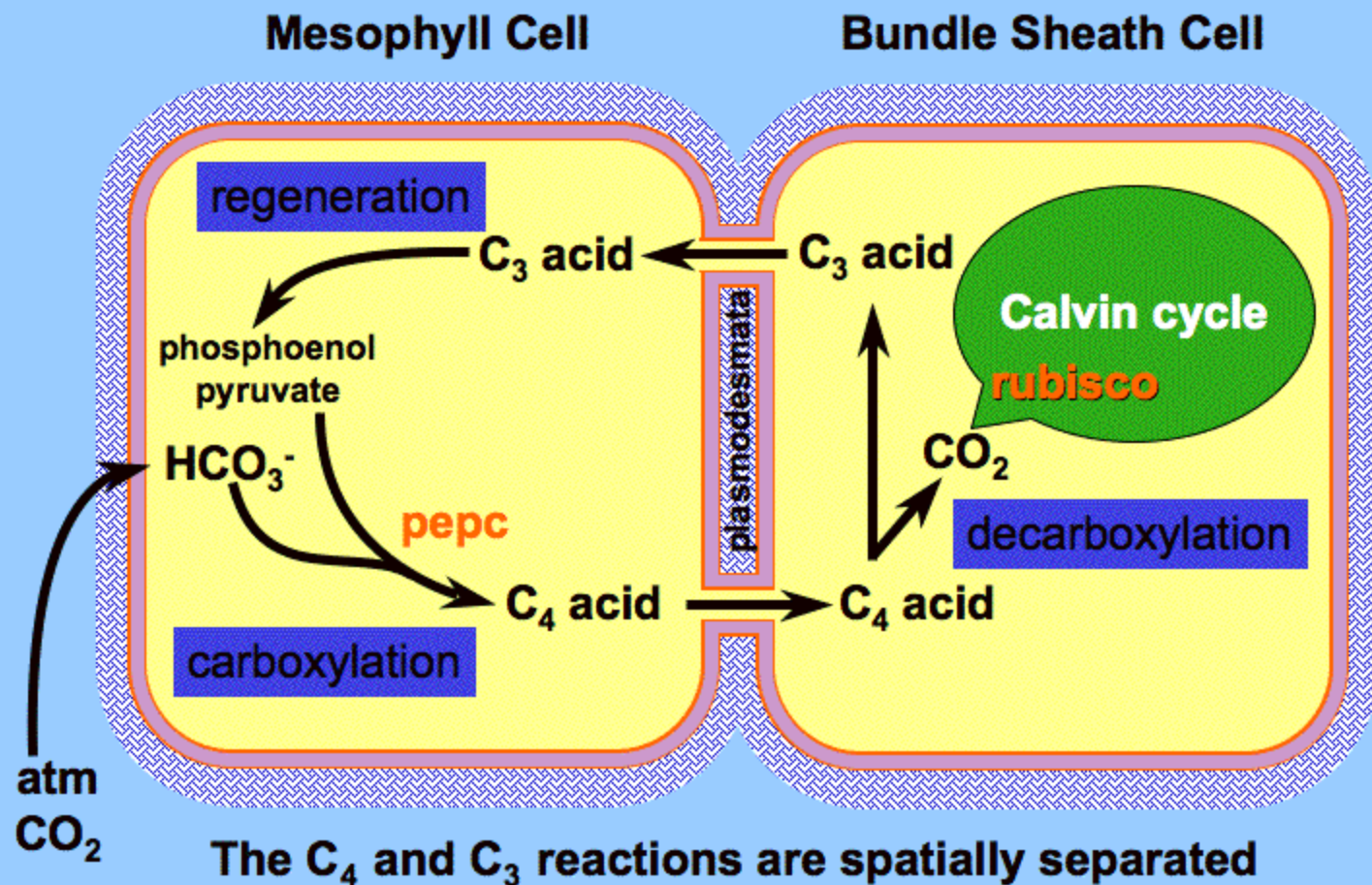
Pumps the 4-carbon compounds through the membrane at the expense of ATP.

Maintains CO<sub>2</sub> level 10-120x higher than normal. This optimizes the use of the rubisco and less of it needs to be made.

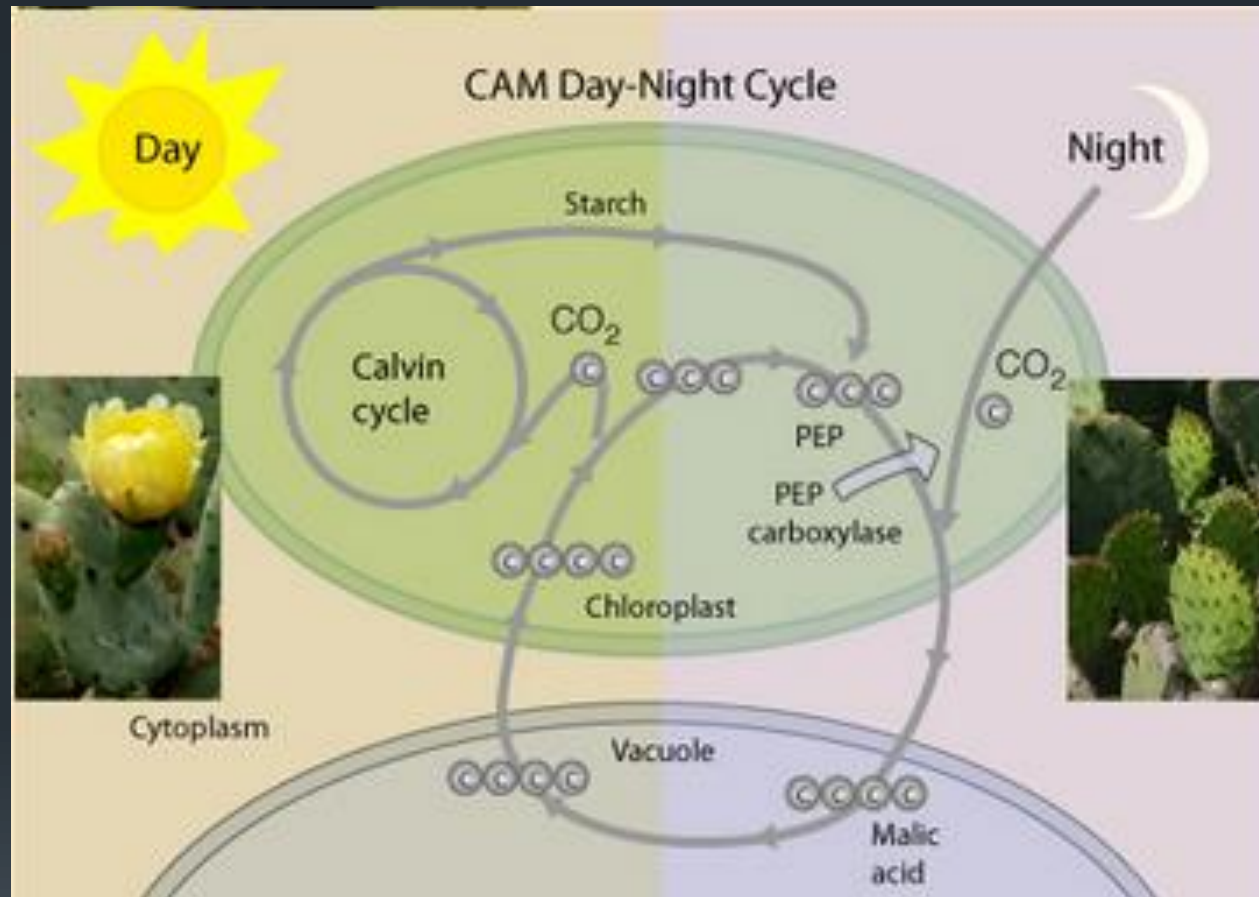
Calvin cycle used to fix CO<sub>2</sub> in this second stage of the process. Rubisco protected from oxygen, so no photorespiration occurs.



## **C<sub>4</sub> Photosynthesis:** The first fixation is a 4-carbon compound







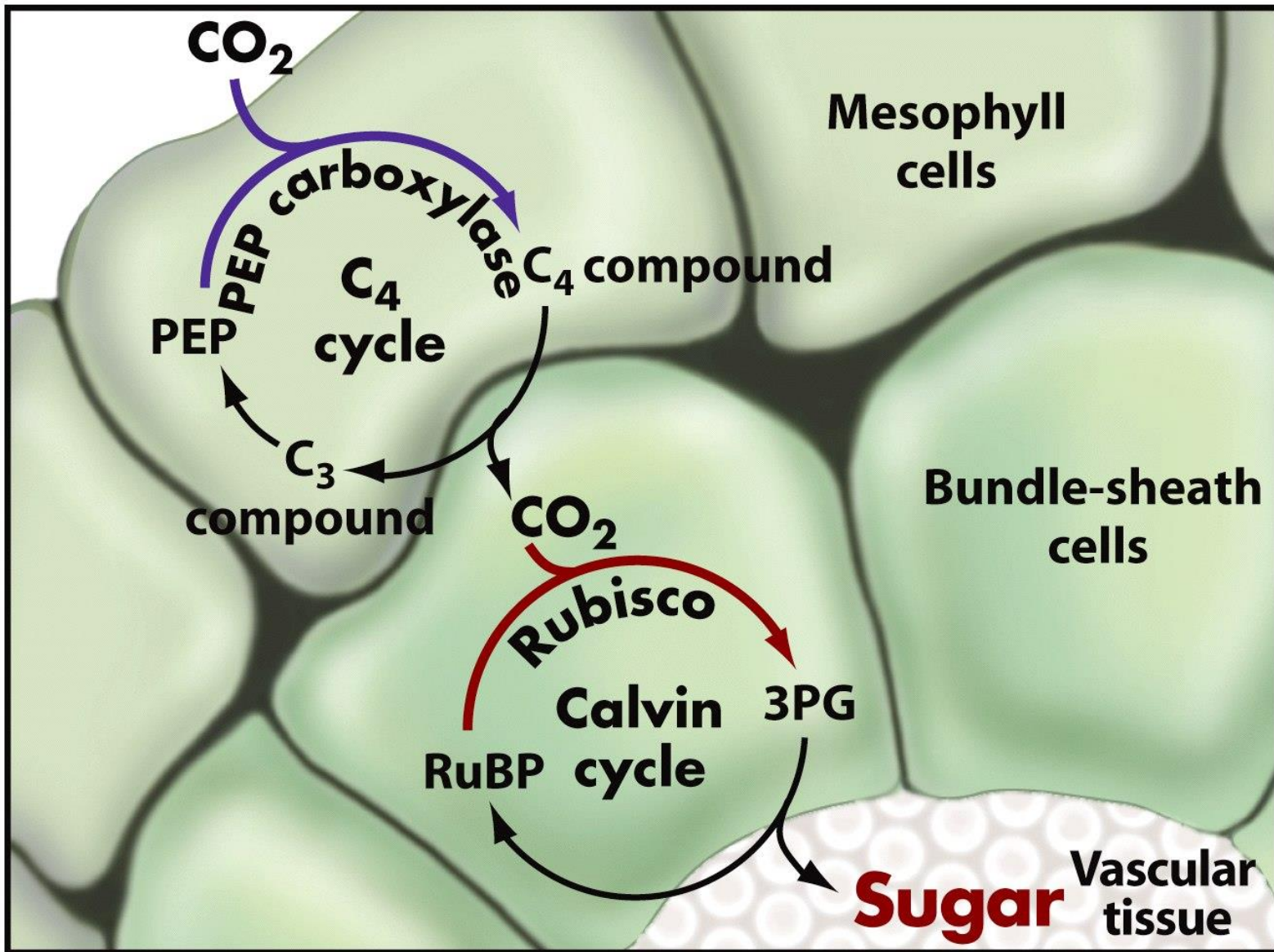
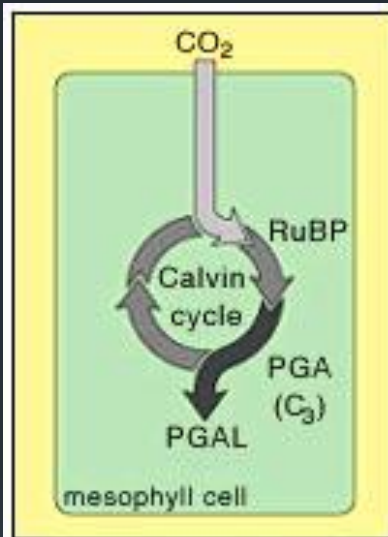
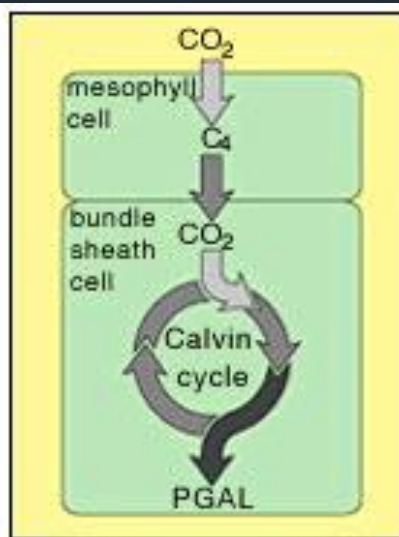


Figure 10-25b Biological Science, 2/e

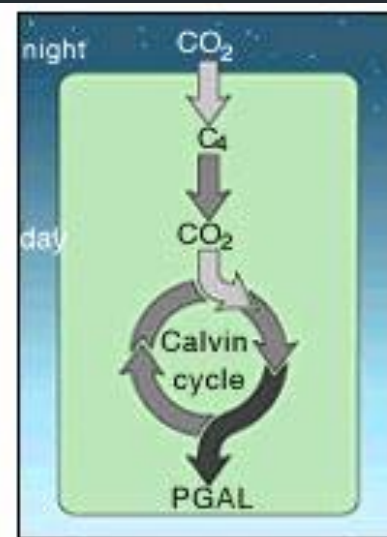
# In Summary:



$\text{CO}_2$  fixation in a  $\text{C}_3$  plant



$\text{CO}_2$  fixation in a  $\text{C}_4$  plant



$\text{CO}_2$  fixation in a CAM plant



